

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

VOLUME CXXI, ISSUE XVIII

WWW.JHNEWSLETTER.COM

MARCH 2, 2017

How has Trump's win changed our courses?

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

In the wake of Donald Trump's election last November, some Hopkins professors have adapted their courses to address how Trump may change the United States. These instructors encourage their students to think critically about the academic implications of the new president's rhetoric and policies.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Daniel Schlozman, who teaches his course "Parties and Elections in America" every election season, explained how he altered the course specifically for the 2016 race.

"I added a day called 'The Convulsions on the Right' to talk about what's been happening to the Republican Party and conservatism," Schlozman said. "I added a reading about Southern suffrage restrictions from the end of the nineteenth century to make the point that democratization in the United States is not, and has not been historically, a one-way street."

Schlozman also compared this past semester's

class to previous years.

"Students vary and years vary, but I think that the emotional register of this election was higher and temperatures ran hotter," Schlozman said. "[There were] remarkably intelligent, thoughtful class discussions, which were not always easy."

He had hoped to foster debate on how the election divided the United States.

"The goal was to shed light on issues around which there was a fair amount of heat," he said.

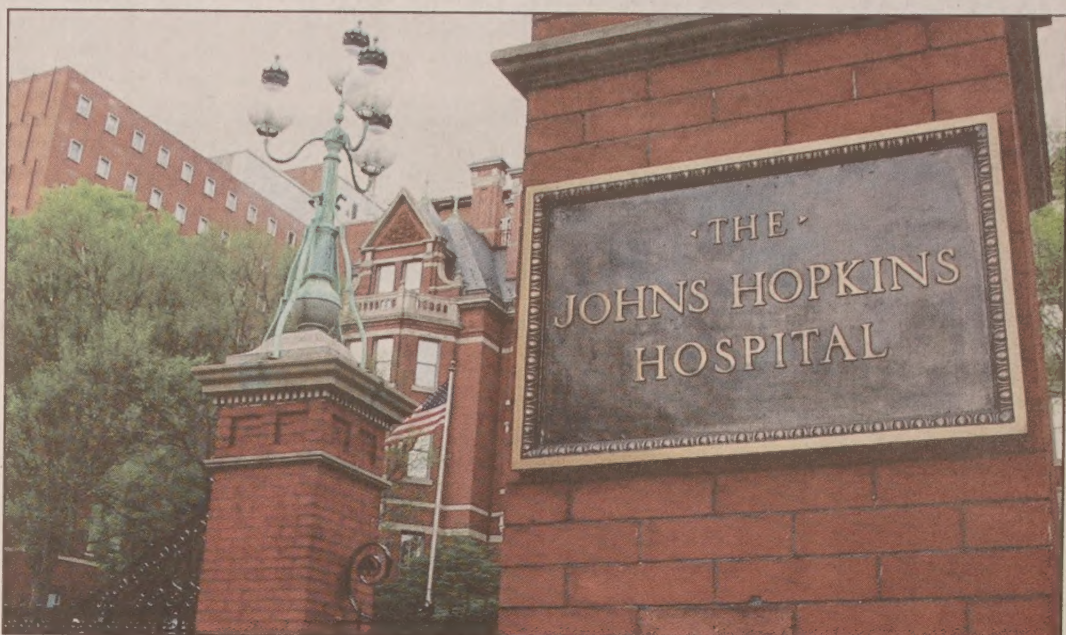
"I think that the emotional register of this election was higher and temperatures ran hotter."

— DANIEL SCHLOZMAN,
ASST. PROFESSOR OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

tem and American political history could help to explicate."

While some courses were altered slightly to address the Trump administration, others were created anew to respond to Trump's rise in popularity during the election. Visiting Associate Professor in the Writing Seminars Wayne Biddle offered a new course called "Nonfiction in

SEE CURRICULUM, PAGE A5



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

Some members of the Lacks family believe that the NIH, Rebecca Skloot and Hopkins Hospital have distorted Henrietta Lack's legacy.

Henrietta Lacks' estate to sue Hopkins Hospital

By SARAH Y. KIM
Staff Writer

In 1951, the Johns Hopkins Hospital took cervical cancer cells from Henrietta Lacks, a black Baltimore resident, and developed the HeLa cell line. Her cells contributed to major medical discoveries, including the development of polio vaccine.

Neither Henrietta nor her family gave the Hospital permission to use her cells at the time.

Some members of the Lacks family, who had formerly made peace with Hopkins after learning in the 1970s that it had taken Henrietta's cells, now plan to sue the Hospital in the coming weeks.

They also want compensation from other individuals and institutes, including the National

Institute of Health (NIH); Rebecca Skloot, the author of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*; Crown Publishing; and HBO, which plans to release a movie starring Oprah Winfrey based on Skloot's book.

Hopkins Hospital claims it does not profit from Henrietta Lacks' cells, stating that it never patented the HeLa cells and that it does not own the rights to the cell line.

Ron Lacks, one of Henrietta's grandchildren, said that the "straw that broke the camel's back" was Skloot's interference in 2013 family negotiations with the NIH without the approval of Lawrence, Ron's father and executor of the Henrietta Lacks Estate.

"We decided enough was enough," Ron said. "They keep saying the

Lacks family is getting greedy. It wasn't about the money when we made peace with Johns Hopkins... It's about the principle. We want to get our respect back."

According to Ron, Skloot's bestselling book was an inaccurate portrayal of the family's history.

"Not only did they steal her cells, but Rebecca Skloot, a white woman, was telling a black family story," he said.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, first published

by the Crown Publishing Group in 2010, details both Henrietta's story and that of the HeLa cell line. It is now required reading in several universities and high schools across the U.S.

Ron argues that the book does not do Henrietta's legacy justice, and inaccurately depicted the Lacks family as impoverished, uneducated farmers and former slaves.

"You'd think that [since Henrietta] helped so many, that [Skloot] would

SEE LACKS, PAGE A4

Appointment of new chair stuns Humanities Center

By ROLLIN HU
News & Features Editor

For the last six months, the Humanities Center (HC) has defended its right to exist as a department. In January, Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences (KSAS) Beverly Wendland announced that the University would not close the Center.

On Monday, Feb. 27, Wendland sent out another email clarifying the next steps.

The email announced the creation of an interim advisory board to redefine the Center's academic foci, rename the Center and establish a possible undergraduate minor. This advisory board will

be led by Professor Gabrielle Spiegel, who is jointly appointed in the HC and the history department.

Professor Hent de Vries will no longer serve as director of the HC. Wendland's email outlined the search for a new faculty member to potentially become chair of the department.

Betsy Bryan, a professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies and vice dean of humanities and social sciences, will serve as interim chair as of Wednesday. The Center's students and faculty were unaware of the upcoming changes prior to Wendland's University-wide email.

Katherine Boyce-Jac-

no, a Ph.D. student in the HC, who is in her seventh and final year spoke about the way in which both students and faculty were blindsided by the announcement.

"This was totally unexpected. As far as we know none of the faculty knew this was happening," she said. "There were no emails to the department specifically. None of the graduate students knew."

Ben Gillespie, a fifth-year Ph.D. student at the Center, was especially shocked that the interim chair has had no prior affiliation with the Center.

"It's very strange. It's almost unheard of to have an outside chair brought in," he said, "It's only in

extreme circumstances, when there are massive conflicts."

They both stressed how bringing in a new chair in the middle of semester disrupts many of the administrative functions of the Center, which includes helping graduate students plan their fellowships, summer funding and dissertations.

"We don't understand. If there was supposed to be this open dialogue to produce the best plan for the department, why didn't our faculty know about it," Gillespie said. "If they wanted to bring an outside chair, they should run it by other faculty members."

SEE HC, PAGE A5

Mizzou protest leader urges student activism



KUNAL MAITI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Head was a leader of the student protests that rocked Mizzou in 2015.

By JEANNE LEE
For The News-Letter

Payton Head, recent graduate and former student body president of the University of Missouri, shared the experiences that led him to become a social activist, at a talk hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) on Feb. 28.

Head made news when his Facebook post in Sept. 2015 about a racist encounter at his university went viral. His student leadership and push for inclusion at the University of Missouri, also known as "Mizzou," has been an inspiration to many students across the United States.

Head started school at Mizzou in the fall of 2012. He explained what it was like for him when he first stepped onto campus.

"I'm a kid from the South Side of Chicago, which is predominantly black," Head said. "Coming into mid-Missouri, where it was predomi-

nantly white, was different for me. I remember as a freshman just feeling this exclusion."

Head noticed that although the university promoted diversity, the community itself was not so inclusive.

"Mizzou seemed to celebrate diversity all the time. They had a program that was called 'One Mizzou.' No matter what, we were supposed to love one another and celebrate and come together as a community," Head said. "I didn't see one Mizzou; I saw multiple Mizzous."

During a diversity summit, Head asked Richard Bowen Loftin, Mizzou's Chancellor at the time, how he could bring about change as a student.

"It wasn't so much me complaining about the institution... [but] understanding that I am a stakeholder of the student body. They told me to get involved. So I joined

SEE HEAD, PAGE A4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Get Out is a must-see film

Jordan Peele's new horror film, *Get Out*, tackles the insidiousness of racism in liberal America.
ARTS, PAGE B3



University gets rape wrong

Emeline Armitage condemns the University's sexual assault module for being outdated and problematic. **OPINIONS, PAGE A11**

Attack of the annoying aphids

Voices Editor Meagan Peoples shares some insight into pesky aphids and offers advice for getting rid of them. **VOICES, PAGE A8**

NEWS & FEATURES

Fund gives \$1M to first-gen students

By **SHERRY KIM**
News & Features Editor

University President Ronald J. Daniels and his wife Joanne Rosen, an associate lecturer at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, announced that they will be establishing a \$1 million financial aid endowment for first-generation undergraduate students at Hopkins.

The Daniels-Rosen First Generation Scholars Fund is expected to meet the financial aid needs of approximately four students at the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and the Whiting School of Engineering each year.

In a Feb. 23 press release, it was announced that Daniels and Rosen will be donating \$500,000 to the to the Fund, and the other \$500,000 will be from a Carnegie Corporation of New York Academic Leadership Award that Daniels received in 2015.

The award is given biennially in recognition of exceptional leadership within circles of higher education.

Daniels cited his personal investment in first-generation university students as a factor that influenced his decision.

"My own father and his siblings were the first generation of his family able to pursue a university education," Daniels said in the press release. "Access to a transformative education made a profound difference in his life and in his children's lives. The opportunity to help others achieve their educational, personal and professional aspirations through a Johns Hopkins education is deeply meaningful for Joanne and me."

Similarly, Rosen highlighted the personal and professional commitment she and Daniels share for creating equal opportunities for students of all backgrounds to succeed academically.

"We have seen firsthand, in our own families and in the experiences of our students, the ways that education can change the trajectory and meaning of people's lives," Rosen said in the press release. "We are thrilled to help offer future members of the Johns Hopkins family that same opportunity."

Jeffrey H. Aronson, chair of the University's board of trustees, added that it was one of the University's main aims to attract a wide range of students to Hopkins.

"A top priority for this University and for our president is ensuring that we are able to bring the best students to Johns Hopkins, no matter their economic circumstances," Aronson said in the press release. "I am deeply grateful to Ron and Joanne for their personal commitment to students who come here without the advantage of generations of college access. I look forward to seeing these students thrive at Johns Hopkins and beyond."

Student oratory competition celebrates black history



KAREEM OSMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Six students presented quote-inspired speeches in honor of Black History Month.

By **PETER JI**
Senior Staff Writer

The Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA) hosted its first Black History Month Student Oratory Competition at Arellano Theater on Feb. 23. Four judges evaluated a series of student speeches. They stressed that the purpose of the competition was to give students a voice.

The six student speakers prepared speeches based on one of three quotes by Martin Luther King Jr., Barack Obama or Michelle Obama, relating their personal experiences and struggles and its relevance for the future.

The most popular quote was from former President Obama: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

The winner of the competition, sophomore Johnnie Johnson, received a \$100 gift card to Starbucks. The judges stressed that every speaker impressed them with their sentiments about race in America, personal identity and black culture.

The judges were Associate Professor of Sociology Katrina McDonald, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Calvin Smith, Senior Associate Dean of Student Life Tonia Blackwell and Associate Dean at the Center for Student Success Irene Ferguson.

Stacy Spence from the Pratt Street Library said that oratory contests help preserve African history, which is based on oral history and songs.

"Oratory history is critical to the legacy of people of African descent, for our genealogy and to keep our

tradition," Spence said. "People who don't have census records, it's important for grandmas, great-grandmas to give people a sense of tradition. It's true for our immigrant brothers and for

people of African descent." Other speakers talked about personal experiences with microaggression and sexism at Hopkins and in life. Student speakers also said that the presidential election rekindled their activism. Junior Dikachi Osaji explained why she decided to participate in the oratory competition.

"My friend Tiffany [Onyejiaka] sent me the link and suggested that it would be a good opportunity for us to speak out. We both spoke out, and I'm very excited to be a part of this, especially during black history month," Osaji said. "It's about the past, present and future and about being a good friend and a black friend. Most of my ideas came from my experiences with microaggressions and sexism."

Senior Tiffany Onyejiaka used King's quote

to touch upon the topic of racism. Onyejiaka said the culture shock of college inspired her to become active in social justice.

"In high school, I was very far from being a social justice warrior. I wasn't marching, I wasn't protesting, mostly because I didn't feel a need to," she said. "I grew up with all sorts of people from different races, and when I came to Hopkins, it was a culture shock. I experienced more racism than I have before. I realized that this is the real America. This is the real world, and lots of people are not exposed to diversity."

Second-place winner Indu Radhakrishnan, a sophomore, shared her dismay as she saw the results roll in on the night of the presidential election in which Donald Trump won. The situation reminded her of a Barack Obama quote, "We are the ones we've been waiting for."

Radhakrishnan decided that the task of change was up to no one but herself, and she encouraged the audience to think big, even if they believe their influence is small.

"I think that on that night, I was grieving the

sudden and unexpected death of some other person. Some other person was my excuse for inaction. Some other person was that judicious and responsible world-changer who was going to go out there and do the right thing on my behalf," she said. "And on that night, I realized that other person was dead and gone, and there was no other person but myself. I grieved because of how heavy the burden of change was."

Johnnie Johnson, the father of the first-place winner Johnnie Johnson, said he was proud to see students expressing themselves. "I loved the fact that they have dialogue in this type of arena," Johnson said.

A local resident named Phil who attended the competition echoed Johnson's sentiment.

"I like enjoying the young folks in the competition. The message that came across the strongest were the ones that made things personal for themselves, and the ones about reaching back to help people and be the beneficiaries of those who come before us," he said.

"Oratory history is critical to the legacy of people of African descent."

— **STACY SPENCE,**
PRATT STREET LIBRARY

Arico explores history of pre-dynastic Egyptian objects

By **SARAH Y. KIM**
Staff Writer

Ashley Fiutko Arico, who recently earned her Ph.D. in Egyptian Art and Archaeology at Hopkins, held a talk at the University's Archaeological Museum featuring objects she identified from pre-dynastic Egypt. Her presentation, which took place in Gilman Hall on Friday, Feb. 24, was based on a project she began in 2012. Her presentation explained that the majority of the objects in the Museum were given to the University by the Egyptian Exploration Fund (EEF).

Arico spent much of the Museum talk discussing the University's long relationship with the EEF, a British organization founded in 1882 now known as the Egyptian Exploration Society (EES). It was founded in the same year as the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Collection.

"[The EEF] was a very popular way to acquire objects with archaeological provenance [in the late 1800s and early 1900s]," Arico said. "Which of course for us as scholars is very important, because it's really lovely to look at a pot that was maybe painted 5000 years ago."

These ancient artifacts donated by the EEF were found in two excavation sites, El Mahasna and Abydos. They were burial goods and therefore well-preserved. Some of the objects on display included blades, micro-blades, an ivory comb, ceramic and stone vessels, a make-up jar for storing eyeliner and a masthead.

"During the pre-dynastic period, people are generally buried in what we call pit burials, which essentially means they went

out to the desert where it was very dry," Arico said. "They would dig a hole in the cemetery, they would bury the person, usually in a fetal position on his or her side and then surround them with different kinds of goods they might want for the afterlife."

Hopkins got involved with the EEF when Baltimorean James Teackle Dennis traveled to Egypt and developed a fascination with its culture. He decided to become an archaeologist, and after earning his degree from Hopkins, began working for the EEF. Dennis arranged for Hopkins to subscribe to the EEF to build the University's collection, and he also made donations himself.

"You, either as a private individual if you're interested in Egypt, or an institution, if you were Johns Hopkins, would purchase a subscription to that season," Arico said. "You would give them a donation. And in return, at the end of the season, when [the EEF] received their portion of the finds they were allowed to take back to England, they would divide those up based on how much you had given, or what your subscription deal had been, and you would get to take those to your home institution."

The University's collection has also relied on the efforts of Baltimorean Colonel Mendes Israel Cohen, who was one of the first Americans to amass a personal Egyptology collection and the first man to fly the American flag up the Nile.

Arico's interest in her project began when she was cataloguing an Egyptology collection as a graduate student at Hopkins. She discovered how diffi-

cult it was to keep track of artifacts, to identify where exactly they came from and to figure out what they were.

"A lot of the objects had really bizarre notations on them, different series of letters and numbers that don't really correspond to any of our numbering systems here at the museum," Arico said. "So I started trying to research what those codes might be and it turned out they were very helpful for us at being able to identify where these objects originally came from."

According to Arico, the EEF had a reputation for incorrectly matching up information on what collectors were supposed to receive and what these collectors actually received.

"This is actually a huge project that's going on in London right now, trying to find out where everything went, called Artifacts of Excavation," she said. "I found that with our own collection many times. I'd find something that's clearly from one burial when it's said we didn't get anything from there, and another burial that's supposed to have five things but we only have one. It's a little bit of a detective job."

Some of Arico's resources were published excavation volumes and the published catalogs of excavations at the Archaeological Museum. Catalog cards had images of different objects in the collection, which Arico used to compare with the actual objects she came across. She also recognized repeating patterns in the codes assigned to the artifacts.

"The first one that kind of struck me was the letter 'H' on a lot of things," she said. "What does 'H' mean? It has nothing to

do with any number or system we have. It only appears on Egyptian art and objects that are pre-dynastic, and only a very small number. And usually the 'H' is followed by a number."

After some research she discovered that 'H' was the letter the EEF assigned to objects excavated from El Mahasna. The EEF, which through a small team of archaeologists began excavating around the beginning of 1909, dug through about 300 burials in the course of two months.

"Today that would be crazy for us to dig 300 burials in the course of a couple months," Arico said. "But they did it."

With multiple concurrent excavations taking place, they wound up having hundreds of thousands of objects every year crated up and sent back to England, and used these codes to keep track of them.

"They kind of arbitrarily assigned each subject a letter," Arico said. "So Mahasna is H. Abydos gets divided into many things so we have things from Cemetery F and Cemetery U. Probably other cemeteries as well. So once I

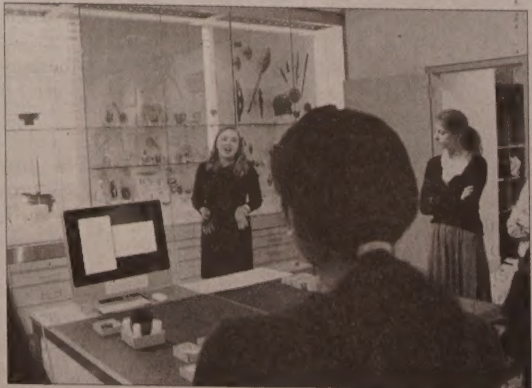
figured out that I started going looking at from the letters what I thought we should have."

With this knowledge she was able to identify other objects, including 16 different objects that belonged to object groups coming from Mahasna. The majority of these are different types of pottery.

"One thing that's interesting that you can kind of get a sense of from here, is that it's clear that they were aware when they were distributing these things that we were a university teaching collection, and that we wanted a representative sample of different types of pottery, different sizes, different shapes," she said. "So they really seemed to make an effort to divide it up. Sometimes they also tried to give us specific groupings, burial assemblages."

She has also located 11 objects in Cemetery F of Abydos and 18 objects from Cemetery U.

"It's an ongoing project but those several dozen objects we've usually been able to attribute to a very specific burial that they came from, so it's making it much more valuable to us as scholars," Arico said.



KAREEM OSMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Ashley Arico presented her findings on Egyptian art and archaeology.

NEWS & FEATURES

Speakers talk gender and identity in poetry



KAREEM OSMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Poet Perry DiVirgilio warned students against toxic masculinity.

By **ALYSSA WOODEN**
Staff Writer

Philadelphia-based poets Perry "Vision" DiVirgilio and Kavindu "Kavi" Ade gave a poetry reading focused on themes of race, religion, self image, gender and gender identity.

The reading, which was hosted by the Office of LGBTQ Life and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) in conjunction with Black History Month and the Masculinity Project, took place in Hodson Hall last Thursday.

The two speakers began by sharing their thoughts on conceptions of conventional masculinity.

"I feel like masculinity can be so toxic and binding and overbearing sometimes," DiVirgilio said. "You can't be free in your own skin. All these dumbass unwritten and sometimes written rules... Being under those rules is boring as f*ck."

Ade talked about their experience as a black, queer, trans person and about how identity impacted their life. Ade's first poem was inspired by their strained relationship with their mother.

"I am tattooed and artist and queer and vulgar and too often a reminder that she must have failed somewhere," Ade said. "But today is my birthday. And maybe right now I don't want this conversation that wrenches all of the air from the car."

Ade stressed that their next poem, about growing up transgender, was particularly important in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to overturn laws allowing transgender students to use the public bathroom of their choice.

"I have never felt the desire to call myself a man, and I have already been a girl lost at sea when searching for womanhood," Ade said. "I am tired of being a curiosity. How taxing the simplest routines become under the scrutiny of a hundred eyes."

Between poems, Ade would joke with the audience and DiVirgilio, interspersing more serious topics with lighthearted banter. Ade also poked fun at DiVirgilio's three published poetry books.

"He just read from like two different books, and I'm pretty sure he has a third one, and I just feel personally attacked when he gets up here with his books," Ade said. "People are always like, 'Oh do you have books?' No, I don't!"

DiVirgilio's poetry focused on his personal journey of understanding and accepting himself. He talked about his decision to start writing love poems, after realizing that he rarely stepped out of his poetic comfort zone. DiVirgilio's love poem to himself dealt with his struggle with body image.

"In a world where six-packs are the desirable at-

tribute, it's hard to admire yourself when you have a keg," DiVirgilio said. "On days that I wish that you would just shrink, I will force myself to find ways to love you."

DiVirgilio also discussed his role as a cisgendered, heterosexual male, and how he believed he needed to use his privilege to empower others by channeling it into his poetry.

"I don't accept the term [ally] lightly," DiVirgilio said. "I don't think it's something cis het men should wear as a label. It has to be a consistent journey with no ending, with no end destination... However, I do believe that when you're an ally, you've got to use everything you have to help."

Ade and DiVirgilio answered questions from the audience fol-

lowing the poetry reading. In response to a question about his writing process, DiVirgilio said that he focused on writing the poems that only he could write.

"I feel like while I'm blessed with height and weight, I gotta write poems kind of checking other brothers. I feel like that's my onus at this point," he said.

In response to a question about self-care, both Ade and DiVirgilio discussed the need for escapism.

"If I just can't deal with it, I'm gonna book a flight somewhere," Ade said.

Overall, Ade and DiVirgilio hoped to uplift and inspire others through their poetry. Ade explained that they often spoke at colleges with small queer communities and that their goal was to give those communities the representation they needed.

DiVirgilio said that he just wanted people to feel happy and would use whatever tools he needed to do so, such as humor and self-deprecation.

"I'm one of those educators [who] wants everybody to be better than me. I want everybody to feel better than when they came," he said.

Programming Direc-

tor for OMA Cynthia Román, who was involved in organizing the reading, said that events like this are important because they provide safe spaces for under-represented students on campus.

"We work with lots of different kinds of students, and really the hope is that we are targeting the issues that are really pertinent in society right now," Román said. "All of us are working with folks who are underrepresented, who need a sort of community, and so this is a platform for that to happen."

A writer herself, Román enjoyed listening to DiVirgilio and Ade.

"I'm always looking for new ways to expand," she said. "[I liked] what Vision was mentioning before about getting out of my comfort zone and getting myself uncomfortable and thinking outside of the box."

Writing Seminars major Dani Pitkoff also enjoyed the reading.

"I'm on the Women's Advisory Board, it's with the Gender Equity office, so this was one of the events that they were helping sponsor," Pitkoff said. "[The event] definitely reinforced the idea that activism through art can be powerful."

Laymon shares his stories of racism

By **CLAIRE FOX**
Senior Staff Writer

As part of the first annual Frederick Douglass Lecture Series, author Kiese Laymon led a discussion and read a selection from his upcoming project about black youth and growing up in Mississippi on Feb. 23.

Laymon is a professor of English and African American Studies at the University of Mississippi and is also an associate professor of English at Vassar College.

Specializing in creative writing, he is the author of the novel *Long Division* and a collection of essays, *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America*.

He began the lecture with a reading from one of his current projects, in which he recounts his experiences as a Mississippi middle-schooler in 1987. In this selection, he described the differences that he and his two friends felt as the few black students at a school called St. Richards, which vastly differed from their old school.

At St. Richards, the principal called him and a friend into his office to discuss his friend Jobari's "unpleasant" odor, insisting that it was "gross" and he fix his smell. The principal's comments stuck with Laymon.

"It wasn't a part of where we were from, funky was not gross, stanky was not gross, f*cked up was not gross," Laymon read. "Worse than any cuss word we could imagine, gross existed on the other side, way over there, far away from what we considered black and loving."

After his reading, Lay-

mon talked about what growing up in Mississippi meant to him, jokingly considering himself a Mississippi supremacist.

"You could make the argument that there are places across this world that are better, but I'm still going to make my argument that where I'm from is the best, because we created Richard Wright, because we created... American sense of morality, because we created American sense of rhythm and mood," he said.

Though he considers it a privilege to be from Mississippi, he has an incredibly complicated relationship with it.

"On the surface, everyone is incredibly civil — we're all brought up to be polite," he said. "But we do other crazy sh*t, like trying to take away all funding from public schools, take away every single abortion clinic in the state except one, while still being kind and driving you to the post office if you need it and things like that."

In his upcoming project, Laymon seeks to portray the ideas that his and his friends' parents wanted to instill in the children in Mississippi. For example, as a child, his concept of who President Ronald Reagan was came from living with his mother, a professor at Jackson State University and an active political organizer.

"I saw him as the physical manifestation with no nuance, of what my mother and grandmother thought was trying to do us in as black people in Mississippi," he said. "For me and my family, he was the physical manifestation of devilishness."

He then related the

feelings that arose with Reagan's presidency to his feelings now, particularly in relation to how Trump's victory. While shocking to many, his win did not come as that big of a surprise to many black people in his community.

"The fact that white people loved to point out what Obama didn't do for people, it made me think, oh, there's room here for someone like Trump," he said. "For one, there was going to be a reaction, because whenever there is a black victory, there's always going to be a white backlash."

Upon returning to Mississippi post-election, Laymon stated that he could now visibly see what underlying fear had existed in black communities for a long time.

"Trump brought to the forefront how unsafe we always were, but you just see it now a lot more explicitly," he said.

Jessica Marie Johnson, an assistant professor in the department of history, admired Laymon's ability to express the complexity of individual sentiments in his writing.

"[Laymon] writes so beautifully about the everyday violence of being young, black, in the South, in cities, in the U.S. in general," Johnson said. "Some of the things he talks about can be defined as microaggressions, but he makes these things very immediate and makes it seem like there really aren't many differences between big macro and these smaller micro feelings."

Junior Michelle Yang, who attended the lecture, stressed the importance of holding discussions like this on campus.

"It's events like these that promote perspective, which is super important right now in our country," Yang said. "[Laymon] is such a good person to bring to campus, because he's so real and easy to listen to."

Mock trial teams prep for Championships

By **MORGAN OME**
Layout Editor

For the first time in their history, two Hopkins mock trial teams will be competing in the upcoming Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS) at the University of Delaware in late March. If Hopkins places within the top six teams, they will proceed to the National Championship Tournament at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in April.

Mock trial at the collegiate level is sponsored and governed by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). In the fall, AMTA releases a case packet with the facts of the case, the issues and witness statements.

Teams, consisting of attorneys and witnesses, work together to present arguments and testimonies. They must be prepared to argue both the prosecution and defense sides of the case.

While many other collegiate mock trial teams often have faculty members or professional attorneys and prosecutors serving as coaches, JHU Mock Trial is completely student-run.

This year, due to increased student interest, the club expanded its number of teams from three to four. Teams usually have between six and 10 students. The four teams include the A Team, containing the best and most experienced members, and three other teams, all of equal strength.

Senior Annette Favetta serves as the club's director of internal affairs and co-captain of the A Team. She has participated in mock trial for eight years, beginning in high school. After graduation, Favetta will be attending Fordham Law School.

"I've known for a very long time that I've wanted to be an attorney," she said. "It's a weird dream to have as a kid, but that's just what I wanted to do. I also was a very shy person. I was nervous speaking in front of people and mock trial seemed like one of the best ways to get out of that shell."

Favetta explained that mock trial is like acting but with a legal perspective.

"There is a certain level of acting involved with being a trial attorney, and I'm not trying to say that in a bad way. There is a performance aspect to it — not stumbling over your words, having good posture, using your hands correctly."

Similar to Favetta, senior Phoebe Roque joined mock trial because of her legal aspirations. She will be working for a law firm in New York after graduating, and she later hopes to attend law school.

"I think it's interesting when you're surrounded in a pre-med hub to be around pre-law people... Being pre-law is funny

because you say it, but it doesn't really have that much weight," she said. "You can be any major you want. All you really need to do is take the LSAT and have professor recommendations. So there aren't a lot of resources that you need. There are limited resources for a pre-law person, but I think Hopkins does have them, if you want them."

Roque currently serves as the Tournament Director and helped facilitate and host JHU Mock Trial's first invitational tournament over intersession. Several universities from the Mid-Atlantic region including Georgetown, George Washington and Howard University came to Hopkins for the invitational. She and other members organized the invitational without much outside help.

"I like that [we] are student run, because when you accomplish something, you know it was of your own volition," she said.

Sophomore Ramya Prabhakar, a team captain, has similar goals to pursue a career in law and has been involved with mock trial for six years. She also drew a comparison between theater and law.

"To me, the courtroom is a stage," she said. "When you perform, you're selling your story to an audience, and then when you're in the courtroom, you're selling an actual argument to a jury."

Prabhakar stated that she has gained leadership skills in addition to furthering her public speaking abilities. For her, mock trial has made her more aware of how she presents her views.

"I've learned how to present an opinion respectfully," she said. "Yes, [you want to] get a point across, but [you also want to] be respectful and be cognizant of how people are perceiving you."

Senior Phil Lin, who is also a team captain, joined mock trial during his freshman year on a whim after one of his friends insisted he try it out. Lin is not pre-law; Instead, he studies cognitive science and plans to attend medical school after college. However, through mock trial, Lin has gained an understanding and appreciation for the legal field.

"I know a lot more about law than I would have before," he said. "I had a perception of what lawyers do, but seeing it in a mock perspective, I know more about what lawyering is."

Although Lin is not planning on pursuing a career in law, he has been able to take away valuable skills from his experience with mock trial.

"I think I've improved my oral presentation skills, because mock trial and oral presentation skills are pretty key, especially when you go into the workforce," he said.

COURTESY OF ANNETTE FAVETTA
Two Hopkins mock trial teams will be competing in the Championships.

NEWS & FEATURES

40 years later, Lacks family wants to reclaim Henrietta's legacy



COURTESY OF KAREN CAMPBELL

Lawrence Lacks, Henrietta's son (center), plans to sue the Hopkins Hospital in the near future.

LACKS, FROM A1
try to find a silver lining in our family somewhere in the book," Ron said. "Everybody that we'd meet, they'd think we're still living in that shack that Rebecca got in the book. I mean they still think we're poor. That's because of the book. It was racial stereotyping."

The book neglects to mention that Lawrence was an Amtrak engineer and that the Lacks family owned thousands of acres of land. Ron said Henrietta and her family are descendants of an interracial marriage between an African-American woman and a white man with

the surname Lacks, who inherited land along with his brothers.

The book also claims that the white Lacks families were slave owners, which Ron denies.

"They're so far from the truth because our upbringing was totally opposite of what was written in the book," Ron said. "My friends, my nieces, they look at this and say, 'Your family is really like that?'"

After reading the manuscript, Lawrence approached Skloot and pointed out the story's inaccuracies. Lawrence asked her to revise her work, but Skloot refused.

"She said, 'This is my

story,'" Lawrence said. "I couldn't figure out how it was her story, when my family was betrayed."

Skloot claimed that she had consent and source material from Deborah Lacks, Henrietta's daughter. The Lacks Estates' media representative Karen Campbell reported that Deborah also disapproved of the manuscript and, like Lawrence, pointed out its inaccuracies. However, she passed away before the book was published.

Although Lawrence objected to the book and Skloot's dealings with the NIH, Skloot claims she had the family's consent.

Alleged family members who gave consent include Veronica Spencer and Victoria Baptiste, who are both identified as Henrietta's great-granddaughters by the Henrietta Lacks Foundation, which is managed by Skloot.

However, according to the Lacks Estate, neither Spencer nor Baptiste are related to Henrietta. Campbell states that DNA testing records exist which can prove that they are not genetically related to the Lacks family.

"[Spencer and Baptiste] were raised up with us. They called [my father] grandpop. But they're not blood-related to Henrietta," Ron said. "So [the NIH and Skloot] got them sitting on the board, thinking they got his grandchildren. We tried to explain to them that they're not family."

Campbell said that the Estate recently contacted the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) and that they have begun a fraud investigation into Skloot's relationship with the family.

Despite several attempts, Skloot could not be reached for comment by *The News-Letter* as of publication time.

Ron explained how other recognized family members have accepted money from Skloot to appear alongside her.

"They were taken advantage of," he said. "They'd go out on speaking engagements, getting paid by Rebecca Skloot. They signed their rights away, they didn't care about talking about their grandma, they decided. When Rebecca came into the picture it was like she put a wedge in between the family."

However, Ron and Lawrence say that the Estate has not received any profits from Skloot's book.

"All the younger generations are going out and speaking, and they were never corrected about anything because they didn't know," Lawrence said.

Ron said he once went to a speaking engagement, but Skloot did not invite him back.

"She wouldn't let me come back any more," he said. "Because I'd signed nothing, I was able to say what I wanted to say. They ask the same questions, and they'd ask: 'Did you make any money from the book?'"

Because a lot of people think we got royalties."

Skloot also had access to photographs of Henrietta provided by Lawrence. She said that Lawrence loaned them to her for research purposes. However, according to Campbell, the media representative, these photographs which are the property of the Lacks Estate were published without approval.

Campbell stated that Lawrence met with Skloot and requested repeatedly that she return the photos. The photos were not returned.

"We call it the Hopkins Virus," Ron said. "If anybody comes in contact

with Hopkins, they think they can take advantage of the Lacks family. NIH, Rebecca Skloot, everybody. [They] totally, blatantly don't want to ask the family members for permission."

At the time of Henrietta's death

in 1951, there was no law stating that hospitals had to obtain permission from patients to harvest cell samples for research. However, doctors asked her husband David Lacks whether they could perform an autopsy. Ron said David opposed this proposal at the time.

"Several times my grandfather said no," Ron said. "Later on in life when we found out, they named the woman [under pseudonyms like] Helen Lane, Helen Larson, anything to cover up Henrietta Lacks. When my mother met the doctor and found out about it, they kept us in the dark."

The Lacks Estate hopes that their current efforts will not only raise awareness about their struggles with the Hopkins Hospital, the NIH, Skloot and other related organizations, but also to do justice to her legacy.

"[We would like her remembered] not just as a cell," Ron said. "She was a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother. She was a good cook. She used to ride horses."

The Lacks Estate also hopes to write and publish their own book on Henrietta and their family to tell a different side to the story.

Ron also personally hopes to have Henrietta recognized during Black History Month.

"She deserved it really," Ron said. "She helped so many, you'd think it would have already been there by now. Only Jesus Christ has saved as many lives as my grandmother's cells have."

Lawrence was positive about their efforts, but said that it was important to spread the word and have others help them with their cause.

Ron specifically appealed to Hopkins students to help revive Henrietta's legacy.

"We need help with all areas. #SaveHenrietta," he said. "We need students that think like that to help come up with some ideas on how we can get our point across."

Ron said that ultimately, what their family wants most is a voice.

"Look at all these years that have passed by," he said. "We only want to be heard."

Mizzou activist urges students to fight for social change

HEAD, FROM A1
everything. I became a summer orientation leader, a tour guide for the university, I was on the alumni association student board, I was in our black student government in addition to the Missouri student association student government," he said.

It was not until a personal encounter with racism, however, that Head was sparked into beginning his fight for inclusion.

"As I was walking through campus in Greek town, some guys on the back of a pickup truck screamed the N-word out at me," Head said. "It really shook me to my core at the moment."

Head even considered transferring to another college that was offering him a scholarship. However, he decided to stay, as he believed that the university was his home. The incident instead led him to run for the president of the student body at Mizzou.

"If you have a home, and you have the privilege, you don't just leave it. You clean it up," Head said. "That was when I decided to run for student body president, in an election that would end up being historic."

Head recalled that he encountered many doubters during his campaign. There had never been a black student president at the university before.

"They said that I wouldn't win because I was black... that I wouldn't have the vote to win," Head said. "That was the type of stuff students would say to my face."

However, Head continued with his campaign. He ended up winning the election and becoming the first black student president.

"We won in the highest voter turn-out in the history of the University of Missouri," Head said. "That

showed the power of the student body. And that showed that students were ready for change, and change is what they got."

Once elected as student president, Head still encountered difficulty with bringing racial issues to the forefront. One particular issue concerned the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson that occurred in the fall of 2014.

"This was very interesting time to be at the university. Just two hours away was Ferguson, Missouri, where a lot of our students were coming from," said Head. "But every single thing that was happening in Ferguson was met with silence by the institution."

Head decided to initiate emails and demonstrations to show the university's solidarity with the issues in their community.

"The first thing I did as student body president was to send out a university-wide email letting students know the resources that existed on campus," Head said.

Despite these efforts, however, the administration did not respond with the same enthusiasm.

In the fall of 2015, Head wrote his Facebook post that recounted the aforementioned incident when a group of men shouted the N-word at him and also cited other acts of oppression against marginalized groups.

Head read aloud his post, and explained why he felt it was important.

"We all have privilege in many different ways. That's why this Facebook post wasn't just about me, but also about

my best friend who was trans, who was spit on walking down the street, or my friends who were Muslim being called towel-heads and terrorists," Head said. "Those issues are personal. We

have to realize that all of these voices matter. These were the issues I took to my chancellor and president."

Head's Facebook post made international headlines, but the university did not respond. This prompted student Jonathan Butler and many other students to go on a hunger strike. The strike demanded that the president of the university, Tim Wolfe, step down from his position.

"There were tents on the quad, because Jonathan Butler began a hunger strike," Head said. "What hurts the most is when the university meets that with silence."

The issue at the university drew national media attention to the campus. Head noted that throughout this time, the students, faculty and staff stood together as one body. A significant moment, however, was when the football coach at the University of Missouri made a statement.

"Nobody expected this — the coach tweeted a picture of the team — that the football team would not be playing until this stopped," he said. "The coach used his privilege for the greater good. And the entire team protested."

In the fall of 2015, Wolfe resigned from his position.

Cynthia Roman, who is the student services administrator in the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), expressed how it was important for the



KUNAL MAITI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Payton Head spoke about racial inequalities and social activism at his talk at OMA.

students to know about Head's experiences.

"The committee recognized that Hopkins has a history of student activism and wanted to highlight those efforts," Roman wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "The student committee was looking to engage the campus community on the student activism that we have seen in the past year and explore the ways civic engagement influence the co-curricular student experience on college campuses."

Roman emphasized that Head can serve as an important role model for students who hope to engage in social activism on campus.

"Mr. Head's civic engagement on University of Missouri's SGA can serve as an example that students can get involved in community service

and social justice in various types of ways and still balance academic obligations," she wrote. "Since Mr. Head is a recent graduate he will be able to relate to our students in a way we often do not see on Hopkins campus."

Isis Dwyer, chair of the Black History Month Committee, connected Head's speech with similar events at Hopkins.

"It was really huge that he was part of the movement at Mizzou be-

cause a lot of the activism and inspiration that happened on our campus directly came from standing in solidarity with Mizzou students," Dwyer said. "With the black student forum and the protests in 2015, it was really cool to have him be our inspiration then having him come to speak to us."

Head gave advice to students who are interested in becoming more socially active on campus and in their communities.

"For students who are fresh graduates, remember this: There are going to be times where it will be difficult. It's important for students to find a support system," he said. "Especially when you get in the workplace, find your allies immediately. Find the people you can truly count on."

Head emphasized that it is important for current college students to continue the legacy set by him and his peers.

"The future is in your hands," he said. "We're not going to be able to solve any of this mess we're in right now if we continue pointing fingers... We have to open up the conversation, open up the dialogue, and we have to love and advocate and appreciate one another for all of our immediate differences."

NEWS & FEATURES

Changed graduation attire upsets seniors



COURTESY OF ALICE JIANG

Since 2006, seniors have worn golden stoles at commencement.

By NEHAL AGGARWAL
For *The News-Letter*

The University announced on Wed., Feb. 22 that the regalia for this year's commencement would not include the golden stoles, a decision that surprised many in this year's graduating class. Stoles, which are a type of scarf associated with graduation attire, became part of the University's official commencement regalia in 2006.

Even though the stoles are a relatively new addition, some in the senior class said they were traditional icons that they looked forward to. Senior Jonathan Martinez was frustrated by how the University made its decision.

"[I]t seems like a great tradition that's being taken away from this graduating class," Martinez wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "[A]t the very least, if they're going to take it away, I would at least appreciate an explanation."

Jill Williams, who is the primary planner of this year's commencement ceremony for undergraduates. According to Williams, one of the reasons for the change was to reduce the costs of the regalia. This year it costs \$50, half the price of previous years.

She explained how not requiring the stoles helps create a greater sense of "one university."

"We are seeking to create a cohesive 'One University' academic appearance across Doctoral, Masters and Bachelor levels in all nine divisions, and ask graduates to adhere to this year's approved regalia," Williams wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Offering various options for students to purchase will leave out those who cannot afford the additional expense."

However, senior chemical and biomolecular engineering major Claire Parker, who created an online petition to bring back the stoles, stressed that it made Hopkins regalia unique. The petition, which was shared through Facebook, currently has 536 supporters, including both current students and parents.

Parker further explained that she feels the University does not do enough to solicit opinions from its students.

"[W]hat inspired me to create the petition was really a lot of built up frustrations with the University's attitude towards undergraduates," Parker wrote. "My personal Hopkins experience had certainly felt like the administration cares about the graduate students first and foremost."

Mina Farag, a graduate of the class of 2016, explained in an email to *The News-Letter* that he was disappointed by the University's decision.

"The stole was the most expressive piece of the gown and offered a hint

of color to a five-hour long ceremony," Farag wrote.

Some undergraduate seniors like Jordan Britton believe that the stoles were not nearly as important as their diplomas.

"There are so many people who wish they could have the opportunity to graduate from Hopkins but can't for a variety of reasons," Britton wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Being able to even complain about the stole is a sign of privilege. The petition is shortsighted and shows a lack of appreciation for the opportunities they've had in life."

According to Williams, the vendor contracting process was started over a year ago.

Charlie Green, SGA president, explained that while the decision made sense, SGA should have been directly consulted.

"I would say that after talking to Jill Williams after the decision was made, it logistically made sense from a cost perspective," Green wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "However, I wish that this change was communicated to the SGA before the change was made."

How Trump's presidency impacts curriculum

CURRICULUM, FROM A1
the Post-Factual Era."

Biddle explained that this course stems from another course he used to teach called, "Non-fiction and Non-fact."

"[In the course] we talked about the grey area between nonfiction and fiction," he said. "The current political phenomenon is the latest manifestation. The difference between truth and falsity is a subject that's been bantered around for thousands of years."

However, this new course is designed for students with an interest in journalism who are trying to understand the power dynamics between the media and those in positions of political power.

"I want to provide some historical and even philosophical background so that students can have some intellectual ammunition to sort out what is a very complicated subject," Biddle said. "What does one do when the genre itself is being subverted the way it currently is by political attacks?"

Senior Jesse Shuman, an aspiring essayist, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that the course has given him a new perspective on journalism.

"As young writers, it often feels like our future occupations, whose role is to uncover and report on the truth, are powerless because people are refusing to listen," he wrote.

Shuman explained that the class has given him a better understanding of the role of journalism in criticizing politics, particularly in the face of what he calls the corruption of truth.

"What we're seeing

today, it's hidden behind labels like fake news or alternative facts," he wrote. "It's important to address this because the media is the institution that is supposed to hold those in power accountable. A deliberate attempt to silence them, or label them the enemy, demonstrates not only a political danger, but a larger threat against any form of critical thinking."

The course was planned before the election, but Biddle said he designed it to be adaptable so that students could apply their established understanding to current events.

"This notion of post-truth or post-fact has been in the air now for several years," he said. "I had been looking for ways to systematize thinking about it."

Senior Hannah Danziger, a student in Biddle's class, said that the course would be very different had Trump lost the election last year.

"This course obviously has been set up for months, but then with the election I think the professor had to adjust his expectations because the course was just naturally going to take a totally different route," she said.

Danziger said that Biddle told them on the first day that it would be the most topical class they would ever take because they would be looking at things as they happened.

She explained that the Trump administration provides ongoing material for the class.

As the Trump administration rolls out new policies, other courses like "Elements of Macroeconomics" taught by Professor of Economics Robert Barbera, are indirectly addressing Trump's actions.

According to Barbera, his course aims to provide students with the necessary tools to think critically about Trump, but through an economic lens.

"It's an invitation to try to get better in the way you think about things," he said. "What I got out of Hopkins was an appreciation of the fact that you don't stop, you're constantly trying to get better."

However, Barbera emphasized that his frustration comes from some of Trump's economic claims rather than any personal political biases.

"What I'd like to do is frame this outside of the normal liberal-conservative debate," Barbera said. "I know people who have strongly held views on both sides of the aisle that they can articulate intelligently... The hard part for me with the campaign and now the initial hints from the administration is so much of what has been championed is demonstrably nonsense."

Barbera also said that it was difficult to ignore some of Trump's claims even in an introductory class, so it was instead important to

understand them.

"The whole alt-facts fanciful commentary that enveloped so many other spheres in the administration is certainly front and center," he said. "Making an effort, being rigorous and understanding things is a plus. That's the beginning of what I'm offering up in class, being thoughtful and being confronted with such thoughtless demagoguery."

Freshman Grace Troy elaborated on how Barbera addressed Trump in class.

"He felt that Donald Trump was not very educated in the claims he was making," she said. "The entire semester we'd be learning about how trade is beneficial, so just Donald Trump's anti-trade, America-first rhetoric really makes no sense."

Troy said that although the class primarily focused on economics, it did also invite some discussion of individual views.

"He looked at it more from the economics than taking a personal stance against Trump's social agenda," Troy said. "It was more like Trump's economic agenda, and then Barbera also let his personal bias in a little bit throwing some digs."

Elaborating on why she thinks it's important to address Trump, Troy emphasized how important it is to think critically about the administration.

"We don't live in a bubble," she said. "He'll still be president when we get out. It definitely affects our lives in the future, it affects our lives right now. I think it's good to stay informed and not just pretend that we aren't affected by what goes on outside Hopkins."

Betsy Bryan named new interim chair of Humanities Center

HC, FROM A1

Boyce-Jacino agreed, feeling that there was not enough dialogue between the administration and the members of the Center.

"I think the way the email frames it makes it seem like it's the product of a long deliberation, extensive conversations with everybody," Boyce-Jacino said. "Maybe that is true on some level, but in terms of interacting with the actual department and the students and the faculty, that clearly hasn't happened and that is very concerning to us."

Bryan explained that her new role as interim chair is administrative and that she will oversee the Center's budget and staff as well as assisting students, faculty and the advisory board.

"The demands of all our roles as academics are growing each and every year, but with the expert help of [Senior Administrative Coordinator of the HC] Marva Philip, the faculty, and students of the Humanities Center, I'm sure that I can do my part until a new chair is hired or identified," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Bryan also explained why she was appointed to her role in the middle of the semester.

"In order to begin the process that will lead to the faculty search announcement at the end of this summer, it is necessary to form the Advisory Board and have it begin to meet with department

faculty as soon as possible," she wrote. "For the sake of a cohesive and uninterrupted transition it was decided to appoint the interim chair now rather than in the middle of this planning period."

She also responded to suspicions that de Vries was removed as Director of the HC because of his role in defending the Center last semester.

"Professor de Vries was absolutely not removed because of his involvement in rallying support for the Humanities Center," she wrote. "To the contrary, he is to be congratulated for his dedication to the department."

Boyce-Jacino pointed out that what the email addressed were many of the same issues that the administration hoped the neutral committee would settle.

"Now, it just feels like 'Oh, you've had one neutral committee and another self study before that, and two external reviews before that. Let's have another one,'" Boyce-Jacino said.

Bryan insisted that this new advisory board was not another review committee.

"The Board, to consist of four faculty and chaired by Prof. Gaby Spiegel, who has been involved with the Humanities Center for numerous years, will work with faculty to consider some interdisciplinary areas that will expand current collaborative areas and partnerships," she wrote. "In addition, this

will lead to clarification of content and methodological areas for the open rank faculty search this fall."

Gillespie feels that the administration is singling out the Center for scrutiny.

"It feels like we are back at the first rung of the ladder because the Dean has essentially outlined another self-study for the department to go through" he said.

But he clarified that the individuals appointed to lead the changes at the HC were not a concern.

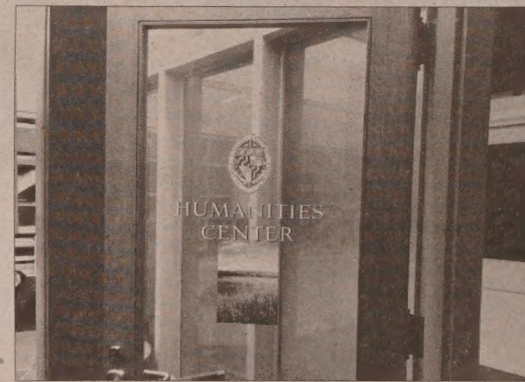
"We have no qualms with Betsy Bryan. We have no qualms with Gaby Spiegel," Gillespie said. "It's just the structure of it and the opacity of the decision making... It could have been a conversation we all could have had together, but instead it was imposed on us."

He is also worried about the precedent this decision sets in eroding departmental autonomy.

"This is especially worrying going forward for other departments," he said. "Who is to say that the Dean can't just remove chairs at will?"

He added that these repeated decisions have damaged the department's record and its ability to attract new students.

"Though the Dean has granted us survival, her imposed measures and continued restrictions upon the department make it very difficult to convince anyone they should come to the



FILE PHOTO

HC grad students are upset by the new email sent out by Wendland.

Humanities Center," Gillespie wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*, "Not only do these delays and erosions of departmental autonomy exhaust those of us already here, [but also] they prevent us from attracting the best and brightest to Hopkins."

Boyce-Jacino, who will defend her dissertation this semester, spoke about the stress of working as a graduate student in a department with an unclear future.

"When we met with the Dean last semester, she was really insistent that she was really concerned about the welfare of graduate students and all these things, and I'm sure that's true," she said. "But in terms of the effects these kinds of decisions have on the lives of graduate students and the intellectual work of graduate students is nothing but detrimental."

Bryan sympathized with the anxiety that

members of the HC have felt throughout the whole months-long process.

"This stress was not something that we would ever wish to have occurred, but consultation takes time, and Dean Wendland, as the [neutral] Committee noted was consultative throughout the process," she wrote. "But it is certainly understandable that students have been nervous and unsure of the ultimate outcome. We hope that a degree of normality can ensue as soon as possible."

Bryan has contacted students and faculty notifying them about her appointment to the Humanities Center and is planning on meeting them sometime next week.

Former Director of the Humanities Center Hent De Vries is currently off campus traveling for academic conferences and could not be reached for comment by press time.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

JHU Forums on

Race in America

present

“A Discussion of Intersecting Dimensions of Identity”

A panel discussion featuring

Laila Alawa
Payton Head
Mo Speller
Monica Yorkman

Moderated by Norma Day-Vines



Tuesday, March 7, 7:00p.m.
Shriver Hall

Information and tickets:

<http://web.jhu.edu/administration/provost/initiatives/forums-on-race-series/>

The JHU Forums on Race in America are sponsored by:

Center for Africana Studies · Diversity Leadership Council · Black Student Union · Black Faculty and Staff Association · Latino Alliance
Office of Institutional Equity · Office of Multicultural Affairs · Student Affairs · The Office of the President · The Office of the Provost



THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER

Spring 2017 Group Therapy Schedule

For Practical Skills & Academic Support

- Anxiety & Stress Management
- Dissertation Support
- Drop-In Mindfulness and Meditation Group
- KORU: Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation
- Social Anxiety
- Substance Use Harm Reduction

For Social Support/ Community Building

- Body Image Support
- Eating Disorder Treatment
- International Student Discussion
- Living with Loss
- LGBTQ Student Support
- Male Survivors (for male-identified students who have had unwanted sexual experiences)
- Students of Color Discussion
- Women's Empowerment (for female-identified students who have had unwanted sexual experiences)
- Graduate Student Process
- Undergraduate Student Process

For more information contact:

The Johns Hopkins University Counseling Center
410-516-8278

<http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/counselingcenter/our-services/group->

FRESHMEN ROOM SELECTION

Get all the information you need regarding your living accommodations for the 2017-2018 academic year. Housing will be presenting information on the Online Freshmen Room Selection Process.

Please join us for the Freshmen Housing Process Informational Sessions:

Wednesday, February 22nd @ 4:00pm - Charles Commons, Salon C

Monday, February 27th @ 6:00pm - AMR I Multipurpose Room

Monday, March 6th @ 6:00pm - Charles Commons, Salon B

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Tuesday, February 21st &

Monday, February 27th

12:00pm - 2:00pm

Housing Information Booth

Fresh Food Cafe'

Monday, February 22nd | 4:00pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection Process

Information Session

Charles Commons, Salon C

Friday, February 24th | 5:00pm

Commuter Exemption application

available online.

<https://jhu.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>

Monday, February 27th | 6:00pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection Process

Information Session

AMR I - Multipurpose Room

Monday, March 6th | 5:00pm

Commuter Exemption application deadline.

<https://jhu.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>

Monday, March 6th | 6:00pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection Process

Information Session

Charles Commons, Salon B

Monday, March 6th | 12:00pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection application available online.

<https://jhu.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>

Sunday, March 12th | 11:59pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection

application deadline.

<https://jhu.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>

Tuesday, March 14th | 6:00pm

"Meet Your Match - Roommate Edition"

McCoy Multi-Purpose Room

Thursday, March 30th | 3:00pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection

Time Slot Notification distributed via email.

Friday, March 31st | 6:00pm & 7:00pm

"Making Your Timeslot Work for You"/

Freshmen Online Room Selection Portal Demo

AMR I MPR & Reading Room

Monday 4/3, Tuesday 4/4, & Thursday 4/6

Online Freshmen Room Selection Process.

Choosing time based on Group's Time Slot

Notification.



VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

What does it mean to be introverted?



Bessie Liu
Write Me

As an introvert, I didn't know I was unconsciously subscribing to the "Extrovert Ideal" until I read the book *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking*. The author, Susan Cain, offers a historical analysis of Western culture's tendency to favor the extrovert over the introvert, the doer over the thinker. She also proposes that not only have introverts been skimmed over, but that we have been defining "introvert" incorrectly for a long time.

Cain begins by describing a term she coined, the "Extrovert Ideal," which is the idea that the "ideal self is gregarious, alpha and comfortable in the spotlight." This concept, she asserts, holds true for basically the entirety of Western culture and began sometime during the start of America's industrial era.

One example used throughout the book is that of public speaking, where people tend to follow the loudest and most charismatic individual. Cain points out, however, that there is no relationship between being a good speaker and having good ideas, arguing that there have been many more reserved individuals whose ideas have been ignored simply because they were not offered the chance to express them.

In trying to conform to the "Extrovert Ideal," many naturally-introverted people might try to "become" more extroverted, harmfully straying away from what Cain calls their "true nature." But not many people are even sure what introversion means, often confusing it with shyness, social awkwardness or being anti-social.

In fact, Cain devotes much of her book to dispelling the popular myth that introvert is synonymous with shyness and the avoidance of social situations, instead asserting that introversion applies to individuals who do not need attention and a stimulating environment to thrive, who tend to navigate away from these situations out of preference rather than fear.

She even proposes that introverts are drained rather than energized by extended social interactions or gatherings. Other than a preference for solitude, characteristics which define introversion include a more cautious approach to taking risks and introspection, in other words thinking deeply. Rather than the label being a binary classification, people can fall anywhere on the introversion-extroversion spectrum.

Throughout the rest of her book, Cain offers interesting analysis of what being an introvert means in terms of personal and romantic relationships, the office workplace and

education. Namely, she tries to raise awareness of the fact that very few environments, especially education and the workplace, actually value or nurture introverts.

For example, even though introverts tend to have higher levels of empathy and self-reflection, both of these environments cater towards group-work and collaboration, favoring individuals who can actively express their ideas.

Cain proposes that introverts have much to offer in terms of creativity and thinking and that companies and schools alike should consider that working alone can be just as important as working together.

What Cain talks about in her book resonates deeply with me: I always phrase my words carefully, but some take my reticence as shyness or an unwillingness to contribute to discussion. After reading *Quiet*, I now value my own introspection and hope other introverts can do the same instead of forcing themselves to become more extroverted.

Nowhere in this book does the author claim that introverts are better than extroverts, or vice versa, or that introverts should find excuses to spend time alone. The author merely wants us to reconsider what our societal values are and how we can better accommodate all types of people and personalities.

I recommend this book to everyone, introverts and extroverts alike, so that quiet thinkers can also have their chance to offer their novel ideas and creative solutions to a society that so frequently looks over their contributions.

The aphid: the complex foe of all gardeners



Meagan Peoples
Think about it

I've recently discovered that the bane of my existence at Hopkins is not grade deflation, apathetic professors or overzealous pre-meds. It's aphids, and they're everywhere.

Belonging to the superfamily of *Aphidoidea*, Aphids are small, usually green insects sometimes referred to as "plant lice," which turns out to be an accurate moniker.

Imagine waking up one day and coming to greet your beloved plants, only to find that hidden on the underside of their leaves is a carpet of the tiny menaces. Imagine the devastation and the disgust as this living skin refuses to remove itself in spite of the not so gentle prodding of the pen you borrowed from your roommate.

They don't stick to one plant either. Instead, they travel throughout the apartment, from windowsill to windowsill, from room to room till all of the plants have fallen victim

to them. Though it's not as much of a concern in my apartment, aphids can actually travel long distances by riding the winds.

That's right, aphids have taken my irrational fear of being sucked up into a tornado and turned it into their means of world domination.

That's not their only means of migration, however. Should the need become great, aphids can spontaneously produce winged offspring which are able to leave home and travel the world's plants.

You know what else makes aphids terrifying? They can reproduce asexually. So when you go to bed at night, safe in the knowledge that those darned aphids can't possibly recover from that morning's genocide, the one little bugger who made it through the massacre will be popping out little clones of herself.

Even more frightening, some species of aphids can produce thousands of descendants from a single female over the course of her 20-40 day lifespan.

In fact, their entire reproductive process sounds like a logistical mess. Some species will produce only females for a reproductive season. In the spring, the newly born, dudeless hatchlings are called fundatrices. So how do they

reproduce? Well, I mentioned that aphids can reproduce asexually. Specifically, their miracle of life happens through the development of an embryo from an unfertilized egg, called parthenogenesis.

However, the aphid weirdness doesn't end there. The cloned offspring of these ladies typically go on to give live birth instead of laying eggs. This process is called viviparity (really just a fancy way of saying popping a fully formed being out of the womb), and the offspring are called virginoparae. This process repeats itself, over and over again, till your plants are just dripping with the little ladies.

However, it's not as though male aphids don't exist. Oh no, what I've described only covers the spring and summer parts of the aphid reproduction cycle. Once autumn rolls around (nobody's entirely sure what signals to aphids that it's time to start doing this) the aphids start parthenogenetically producing male offspring in addition to the female.

These men are identical to their mothers, with the exception of having one less chromosome. They often lack wings and sometimes even mouthparts, because their existence is entirely for the purposes of reproduction. The male and female aphids, you know, do their thing, and then the resulting eggs are laid to gestate for the rest of winter. In the spring, the eggs will hatch into a population that is entirely composed of women, and the cycle begins anew.

So why are aphids so bad? Why not try and live harmoniously with my plant's tiny tenants? Well, using a mouth piece called a stylet, aphids feed on the sap of plants. Moreover, aphid saliva is actually toxic to plants. So that little army is essentially salt-

ing the earth that they're feeding on, causing the plant to wilt, brown and eventually die.

Most aphids also secrete a sticky fluid known as honeydew, which can promote the growth of fungus and prevent the effectiveness of fungicides. Interestingly, though, ants enjoy eating this secretion, as it is high in sucrose and will actually protect herds of aphids on the plants that they eat. They will even "milk" the aphids by stroking them with their antennae, promoting the production of honeydew.

Unfortunately for me, the prospect of farming my aphid infestation is not that appealing. I'd much rather have the harvest from my plants than their parasites. So what can I do about it?

Of course, there are chemical options. As one of the most destructive pests in temperate regions, there are many, many insecticides targeted towards the death and destruction of aphids. But if you'd prefer to more closely follow the Geneva Conference's code of conduct for modern warfare, then there are still options out there for you.

If the infestation is small, then I would suggest simply removing the affected leaves or flowers. You have to be careful that you don't leave any behind when you do so, whether on the plant or in the soil around it.

Otherwise, you can also wash your plants down with water to remove the intruders. And if this doesn't work, spray your plants down with soapy water, making it more difficult for the aphids to take up residence and stick to the leaves.

No matter what path you take, however, the most important thing is vigilance. In the fight against the aphid, patience is everything.



MEDIEVALRICH/CC BY-SA 3.0
Aphids reproduce by giving birth, a trait that's unusual for insects.

Why Trump's restriction of our media is so frightening



Jacqui Neber
In Review

This past Friday, several major publications were excluded from a press conference at the White House in a Trump administration effort to host only friendly publications, hoping for favorable coverage.

The *New York Times*, *CNN*, *Politico*, *LA Times* and *BuzzFeed* were all barred from the gaggle. The *Associated Press* and *Time* boycotted the conference in solidarity with their banned colleagues.

This refusal to allow certain publications to participate in a press conference is unprecedented. It has not occurred under any other presidential administration. The media reacted unfavorably across many platforms.

CNN called the ban "unacceptable." Dean Baquet, executive editor of *The New York Times*, said nothing like this

has ever happened in the paper's history, as the *Times* has always had an important place in White House reportage. The Committee to Protect Journalists is highly concerned. Marty Baron, an editor at *The Washington Post*, said barring certain institutions from the conference is "appalling."

The exclusion of certain press from participation isn't the main issue here, though it's disturbing and concerning. The real danger of the Trump administration is their exclusion of any press in the first place.

Fair coverage from all sides is absolutely necessary for any presidential administration and becomes vital when the country is presented with such a controversial commander in chief.

Freedom of the press cannot, and should not, be compromised by any president. The Trump administration has now actively prevented NYT/CNN/Politico/LA *Times* readers from educating themselves. That is one of our first rights as citizens and news consumers.

As a future journalist (and current student journalist), the Trump administration's actions are terrifying. We were told the practice and pro-

cess of political reportage would change with Trump, but I didn't expect this level of change. Maybe more seasoned journalists did, but this is so unprecedented, so new, that it seems hard to believe. The ban aligns with the administration's actions towards press on the campaign trail, but Friday's events are still shocking.

The *News-Letter* doesn't send reporters to the White House, but we do cover political sentiment on campus and follow the same ethical guidelines as major papers. I'm sure what happened this past Friday was horrifying to my colleagues as well.

We all care deeply about the future of journalism, that's why we invest so much of our time into this paper every week. We take any threat to future journalism seriously.

The *News-Letter* acts as this campus's primary historical record. In a time where the president's actions are akin to "a dictatorship," according to The Newspaper Guild, our responsibilities as a record have shifted. The stakes are higher.

The dynamic of journalism everywhere, on the national or campus level, has changed. Our

feelings about our future have changed.

Not everyone on *The News-Letter* will go on to a career in journalism. Most of us are not destined for a life at the *Post* or the *Times*. But we're all committed to upholding journalists' rights as long as we have a career on campus.

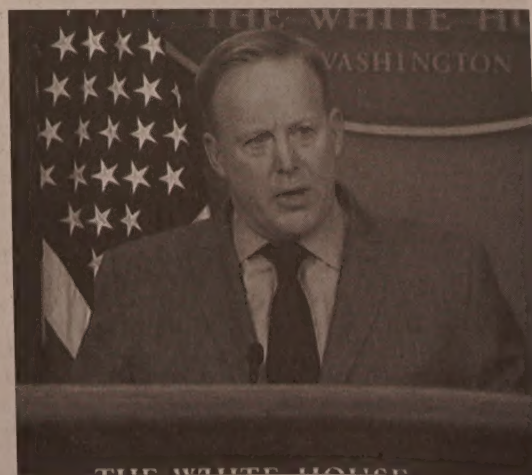
We are all passionate about journalism as an industry, profession and craft. That's part of what makes our staff so close — we're united by our ideals.

As for me, a career in journalism is exactly what I want, and what's happening to journalists and publications now

will have a direct impact on my career trajectory. The consequences caused by the actions of the Trump administration will probably unfold in ways we cannot imagine.

That's why we at *The News-Letter*, and students on campus papers across the country and world, need to take the same determination that has led us to relentlessly cover our own University for years and apply it to our practices going forward.

Now is not the time to back down or let fear consume us. Now is the time to fight back, be diligent and to continue being great journalists.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Sean Spicer is currently Trump's White House press secretary.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

March Horoscopes

Capricorn

The stars and I support your decision to rewatch all of *Gilmore Girls* instead of studying for your midterm.

Aquarius

Go try that new ramen place, and get back to me. Mercury wants you to.

Pisces

It's not a crime if you don't get caught. Keep that in mind for the weeks ahead of you.

Aries

Don't forget to look up once in a while. You'll walk into fewer poles that way.

Taurus

Things are about to pick up a bit, but don't stress out. Just do as much as you can, it will work out in the end.

Gemini

With the weather as nice as it is, you're going to want to be outside. Just remember the sunscreen.

Cancer

The stars are shining down on you tonight, if only to help you see your textbook.

Leo

On the third hour of the third night of the third month, you're going to receive a phone call. Don't pick it up.

Virgo

With the moon in retrograde, there is no need to worry about werewolves. Enjoy a night on the town!

Libra

Express yourself any way you know how. Whether that's art, dance or screaming, just go for it.

Scorpio

Don't let anyone judge you for your bad dancing.

Sagittarius

It's okay to take a break from studying, especially if you're in one of my classes. Please. I really need the curve to be good.

Lothar Malskat: the man who sued himself



Rollin Hu
Irrelevant History

In 1952, Lothar Malskat sued himself. Malskat was a painter and a rather good one. He could paint in multiple styles, ranging from Monet's impressionism to Picasso's cubism to Rembrandt's portraits. In fact, his pieces were frequently indistinguishable from the works of his predecessors.

On the night of March 28, 1942, the British Royal Air Force carpet-bombed the German city of Lübeck. With nearly 300 tons of incendiary bombs, the entire city burned, including its St. Mary's Church, otherwise known as the Marienkirche.

In the heat of the flames, plaster peeled off the church walls, revealing Gothic frescoes which were previously hidden since the church's construction in the 1200s. In the smoldering ruins of the city, the sight of these emerging frescoes was a sign of hope, they were a "miracle of Marienkirche."

After the war, it was time to rebuild, so the church authorities and

the government paid art restorer Dietrich Fey and his assistant, Lothar Malskat, 88,000 German marks (according to my — probably wrong — calculations, that's around 300,000 US dollars) to fix up the Marienkirche frescoes. So Malskat got to work.

Three years later in 1951, the new church was unveiled to the public, and the public loved it. West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer loved it. The church officials loved it.

Everyone loved it so much that reproductions of the murals were printed on two million postage stamps. It was the symbol of a rebuilt Germany, a sign that despite the devastation of war, the country could redeem itself.

And then in 1952, Lothar Malskat sued himself for being an art forger.

Malskat would reproduce pieces by Monet, Picasso, Rembrandt and others, and Fey would sell them. Fey got paid the 88,000 German marks. Malskat got paid a fifth of that payment. Fey got all the credit for restoring the Marienkirche. Malskat got ano-

nymity. He painted with the skill of the masters with none of the recognition. And he absolutely hated it.

So he told everyone that the Marienkirche restoration was all a fraud, that he and Fey had swindled them all. Except no one believed him. No one wanted to believe him. They refused to believe him.

This was just some salty, egomaniacal rejected artist seeking the adoration of the German people. The last time that

happened, there was a world war.

But Malskat could prove that the restoration of the Marienkirche was fake. The original fresco's paint proved to work

with and simply crumbled at the touch of a brush. So Malskat just got rid of all of the originals and started with a clean wall and his own imagination. Mary Magdalene didn't have any shoes in the new piece. The faces of the monks were the faces of nearby laborers. Russian mystic Grigori Rasputin was the face of a king. Contemporary Austrian actress Hansi Knoteck's face was hidden in the background. There

were some turkeys in the painting, which wouldn't have been discovered in the 13th century.

There was no hiding it, especially the turkeys. The German people had been duped and Malskat reveled in the attention. During the five-month long trial, he freely pointed out how the praises he received for the restoration were baseless. Not only did he reveal himself to be a fraud, he dragged everyone else down with him.

In this great betrayal of public trust, the people turned against the church officials, the art curators and the institutions that perpetuated Malskat's hoax. He served his 18 months in prison and emerged hoping to receive the embrace and adoration of art fans.

He did earn recognition, but not as a master artist he so desired but as the forger he always was. For the next 32 years, he became a struggling expressionist artist and died in the shadows of art history.

And as for Malskat's frescoes in the Marienkirche? They were all removed from the walls of the church and the memories of the people. All were removed except for a section above a nave of the church which serves as a warning to the future charlatans and liars seeking to take advantage of the sentiments of masses.

Kickstart spring with these unseasonable jams



Juliana Veracka
The Playlist

It's beginning to feel like spring around here, and though this week promises to get back to the weather we might expect from late February or early March, I'm still in the mood to celebrate the upcoming seasonal change.

While 70-degree days in February are actually really troubling (global warming, climate change etc.), that didn't stop us from enjoying it. Campus was crawling with students emerging from their hibernation dens last week, and that was pretty awesome.

Even though we've still got almost a month before winter is officially over, I've decided to create a playlist that will make you want to get outside and enjoy the upcoming fresh air and sunlight. Whether you're going for a walk or studying on the Beach, these tunes can help you make the most of spring.

"Better Than Love" by Hayley Kiyoko: What a cute song to begin a list with! Most of Hayley Kiyoko's work makes me feel like spring, so I figured I'd kick things off with her. This song is pleasantly upbeat with really sweet lyrics about enjoying love even if it's not meant to last. In short, it's about cher-

ishing the good times and holding onto them but also living in those moments, not worrying about what comes next.

"From Eden" by Hozier: Is there anything springier than Hozier? Honestly, I recently started listening to this song again, and though I sometimes get bored with slower songs, I can't help but put this one on every time I step outside on a warm, sunny day. It's relaxing, and no matter what kind of day I'm having, it always calms me down.

"Good As Hell" by Lizzo: A feel-good song if I ever heard one! In a bad mood? Put this song on, and you'll perk up immediately. It's all about moving on from things that get you down, treating yourself, dressing up, going out and having a good time.

"Won't Turn Back" by Our Lady Peace: This is a very encouraging song. It urges you to keep pushing forward. In spite of the nicer weather, if you find yourself struggling under the weight of the semester, this song can help you keep up the good work. You've come too far to turn back now!

"Rich Youth" by Hayley Kiyoko: Another one by Miss Kiyoko because I couldn't resist. At least be happy I didn't make this

entire playlist all about her, or maybe I should have. At this point you should just check out the rest of her music because I'm never going to stop mentioning her. I'll probably make it through her entire discography in this column at some point.

"Put Your Records On" by Corinne Bailey Rae: If you don't recognize this one from the name but are well-versed in early/mid-2000's U.S. jams, you'll most likely know this one when you hear it. For me, it's quintessential spring music. Maybe I heard it a lot during spring when I was younger? I'm not sure why exactly, but this song screams warm sunny days. I hope you agree.

"Demons" by Fatboy Slim feat. Macy Gray: If you want something to wind down to, this song is smooth and relaxing. It's also got an early 2000s feel to it, which kind of goes with the previous song on this list. Plus, something about Macy Gray's voice is calming.

"Brighter Than The

Sun" by Colbie Caillat: Remember all that sun that we'll be getting in the coming months? Let's celebrate that with this peppy love song. It's just about as bright and sunny as you would expect it to be given the title.

"I Don't Feel Like Dancin'" by Scissor Sisters: Have I put this song on *The Playlist* before? The only reason I say that is because I was getting ready to make a quip about how this song will definitely make you feel like dancing, but it feels like I've already made that joke. I hope I'm not already starting to throw in repeats, but this song is really good, so I don't feel too bad about it in this case.

"You Gotta Be" by Des'ree: Hey, look, another throwback. I think it's possible that I've put this one on a playlist before too... Either way, it's worth coming back too. It has uplifting lyrics and for some reason reminds me of a cool breeze on a warm day. I thought I'd leave you with something as encouraging as the sunny days ahead.



SIMON FERNANDEZ/CC BY 2.0
Corinne Bailey Rae is a British singer-songwriter who released her debut album in 2006.

the johns hopkins
NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Why we shouldn't forget
Henrietta Lacks

The cells of Henrietta Lacks, a black woman who died at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1951, have led to countless medical advances both at Hopkins and around the world. The story of her life and her HeLa cells are the subject of a 2010 book by Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, which has quickly become required reading at many schools and universities in the U.S.

Now, her family is planning on suing the Hospital for obtaining the cells without the family's permission and subsequently "profiting" off them, according to her son Lawrence. When the Hospital took the cells from Lacks, who suffered from cervical cancer, technically the Hospital did nothing illegal. However, researchers' subsequent use of the cells to make incredible scientific discoveries unfairly thrust the Lacks family into the spotlight while many institutions, including Hopkins, benefited.

Members of the Lacks family argues that no permission was given to harvest the cells from Lacks in the first place, and that an autopsy was then performed against the family's wishes.

Though the family formally made peace with the Hospital in 1970 when they first discovered the cells had been acquired without permission, they want to pursue this lawsuit to protect Lacks' legacy; they insist they aren't just looking for a pay day. Lawrence and his son Ron told *The News-Letter* that the recent publication of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* in 2010 and the upcoming release of an HBO movie starring Oprah Winfrey spurred the lawsuit. They say they never agreed to the publication of the book nor the production of the film.

The Henrietta Lacks case is not the only notable instance of questionable research ethics involving Hopkins. Just last year, the University was sued for conducting a study in Guatemala in the 1950s, during which hundreds of people were forcibly injected with multiple sexually transmitted diseases

so that researchers could explore different treatment options. Though the case was dropped because the statute of limitations had run out, it's another example of Hopkins pursuing scientific discoveries at the expense of good ethics.

At Hopkins, we pride ourselves on being one of the leading research universities in the world, with over \$2.3 billion spent on research each year, but where exactly do our ethical boundaries lie? At what cost have our scientific breakthroughs come?

The Editorial Board believes that as a leading research institution, Hopkins needs to set a good example in proper research ethics. We acknowledge that the University is at the forefront of scientific ethics studies and hosts institutions like the Berman Institute of Bioethics, founded in 1995. We believe that such vigilance must continue, especially in light of recent events.

Although current laws and regulations cannot be retroactively applied to events in the past, Hopkins should acknowledge their past mistakes rather than erasing them out of history or pretending they never happened. If the Lacks and Guatemala incidents had occurred today, they would not only be illegal, but would have sparked global outrage.

Hopkins should still stand up and take responsibility for the role it played not only in these two cases, but also for its questionable history in the past, especially its dealings with patients of color. The University has begun to acknowledge its role in stealing the cells and has attempted to honor Lacks' legacy and contribution through programs such as the Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture as well as scholarships and community awards in her name.

As ethical standards become increasingly strict, this shift should be reflected in the research practices at Hopkins. It is incredibly important that Hopkins own up to its own unsavory history and use it as a lesson for the future.

Professors should adapt
curriculum to the Trump era

In response to Donald Trump's election, many professors at Hopkins have altered their course curricula to address the president's rhetoric and policies. Some, like Wayne Biddle's Writing Seminars course "Nonfiction in the Post-Factual Era," were created this semester specifically to confront the aftermath of Trump's win.

Instructors who taught courses, like Elements of Macroeconomics and Parties and Elections in America, last semester didn't hesitate to adapt. The Editorial Board commends professors that have created new classes or changed their curricula to reflect the changing times of the Trump era.

Students have been looking for structured environments in which to discuss the future of politics and the media, and classrooms are perfect spaces in which to do so. Students will not only be able to participate in rigorous academic debate, but also benefit from their classmates' diverse perspectives, all under the guidance of some of the world's brightest academics.

Trump's presidency will last at least four years, and it is crucial that Hopkins students graduate with the tools necessary to face this new political environment.

By encouraging students to analyze the present, professors are ensuring that their students receive not only a knowledge-based education, but also

a practical one. After all, what is the point of exploring the social sciences and the humanities if students can't apply what they learned after graduation?

Our University's motto, *Veritas vos liberabit*, means "the truth will set you free." As a world-class research institution, it is especially important that we embody that motto. People come to Hopkins seeking knowledge, and it is the empirical reality in America right now that the truth and facts are becoming harder and harder to find.

Fake news is not new to America nor to the world, but the phenomenon is especially relevant now that Trump is president. It is essential that Hopkins students learn how to stay informed, and it is equally as important that they are given a forum in which to discuss them.

The Editorial Board thinks professors who have tailored their classes in response to Trump's victory are offering students exactly what they need after this election. We also want to commend departments and department chairs for giving professors a certain amount of leeway in structuring their classes this semester.

In the age of alternative facts and fake news, it is increasingly important that the University offers forums for honest discussions about Trump's rhetoric and policies.

LETTERS & OP-ED POLICY

The News-Letter encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon approval for publication, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of *The News-Letter*. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words, must address content previously published in *The News-Letter*, and must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue; they should be sent to chiefs@jhnewsletter.com (with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact opinions@jhnewsletter.com. Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

Submittal of an op-ed and/or letter to the editor acknowledges your acceptance of and agreement to these policies. Any questions about these policies should be directed to the Editors-in-Chief of *The News-Letter* at chiefs@jhnewsletter.com.

the johns hopkins
NEWS-LETTER

WWW.JHNEWSLETTER.COM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:

Will Anderson

Amanda Auble

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICERS

MANAGING EDITORS:

Jacqui Neber

Catherine Palmer

EDITORS

NEWS & FEATURES EDITORS

Sam Fossum, Rollin Hu,

Sherry Kim, Kelsey Ko

Gillian Lelchuk

OPINIONS EDITOR

Emilie Hoffer, Andrew Johnson, Gaurav Verma

SPORTS EDITORS

Sabrina Chen, Scott Zheng

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITORS

Mia Capobianco, Dubray Kinney

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

Meagan Peoples

VOICES EDITOR

Veronica Reardon

YOUR WEEKEND EDITOR

Ellie Hallenborg, Cindy Jiang, Kareem Osman

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS

Audrey Holt, Diva Parekh

COPY EDITORS

Stephanie Herrera

CARTOONS EDITOR

Morgan Ome

LAYOUT EDITOR

Jane Jeffery

MAGAZINE EDITOR

BUSINESS STAFF

CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER

Abby Biesman

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Arshad Ajani

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

WEBMASTERS

Jenny Wagner, Elaine Wong

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS: Amy Han, Anne Hollmuller, Claire Fox, Peter Ji, Will Kirsch, Duy Phan, Karen Sheng, Joan Yea

STAFF WRITERS: Tara Abrishami, Hayley Bronner, Elaine Chiao, Paige Frank, Zach Jaffe, Sophie Johnson, Lily Kairis, Ashley Kim, Sarah Y. Kim, Katherine Logan, Annabel Lyman, Adarsha Malla, Nicita Mehta, Cathy Nie, Tariq Omer, Aneeka Ratnayake, Emma Roalsvig, Sherry Simkovic, Maggie Spitzer, Jacob Took, Siri Tummala, Karen Wang, Alyssa Wooden, William Xie, Molly Young, Marcia Zimmerman

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS: Kunal Maiti

COPY STAFF: Peter Ji, Amanda Kaufmann, Karen Sheng

The News-Letter

The Gatehouse

(on the corner of N. Charles Street
and Art Museum Drive)

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter is published every Thursday during the academic year by the undergraduate students of The Johns Hopkins University with the exception of holidays, exam periods and vacations. The views expressed herein, including opinions and columns, do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. All submissions become property of *The News-Letter* and will be included on *The News-Letter's* website, www.jhnewsletter.com.

Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 1-5 p.m. The deadline for advertisements is 5 p.m. on the Monday before the Thursday of publication. The total circulation to the local campuses of Johns Hopkins (Homewood, Medical School and Hospital, Peabody), area colleges and the greater Baltimore region is 5,000.

©2016 *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter*. No material in this issue may be reproduced without the expressed written permission of the Editors-in-Chief.

acp

Mailing Address:

3400 N. Charles St.

Mattin Center, Suite 131

Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: (410) 516-6000

Email: chiefs@jhnewsletter.com

Business Email: business@

OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

The new sexual assault module is a disgrace

By EMELINE ARMITAGE

The University's new required "Think About It" online course about sexual assault, alcohol and sex on campus is one of the most inept, incompetent and downright insulting programs I have come across. I am honestly flabbergasted as to how this program was accepted and sent out to students after years of intelligent conversations about sexual assault.

I have limited space, so I will leave out the conversation surrounding the drugs section of the training in this article. However, the conflation of alcohol, drugs, relationship abuse and sexual assault in the video reflects criticisms that have been going on since at least 2014.

At a 2014 forum on sexual assault, Dean of Student Life Terry Martinez acknowledged that the dangerous conflation between alcohol and sexual assault in campus conversations can lead to incorrect thinking that the blame for sexual assault is alcohol rather than the perpetrator. Clearly, the administration has either forgotten or chosen to ignore this criticism.

The opening section of the training module which concentrates on nebulously-defined "hookup culture" was problematic, and the module ignored the existence of trans people, but due to space constraints, I cannot further elaborate on those issues.

Due to the large amount of ludicrous misinformation in the video, I will also not have room to address the problems with Bystander Intervention Training (which the module endorses) but my previous article entitled "For Real Change, We Need More than BIT" from Oct. 15, 2015, outlines my concerns.

I would like to address our Title IX Coordinator Joy K. Gaslevic who approved this program: Did none of the following red flags pop out at you? Why on earth was this training module chosen?

Without a doubt, the most enraging part of the module

was when rape was defined as "vaginal intercourse with someone who cannot give consent." Anyone who has worked with or studied the topic of sexual assault at all knows that this is not true and perpetrates myths that have harmed both women and men who are victims of rape.

Rape should be defined as unwanted penetration or the act of forcing someone to penetrate any orifice. This is an unbelievably simple and dangerous mistake to make. The law is way behind in the correct terminology, and training modules should explain these discrepancies better. When I saw that sentence come up on my computer screen, I was blown away that this program was approved by our Title IX coordinator. Bizarrely, the training module later says that cis men can be raped, despite having defined rape as solely forced vaginal intercourse.

The worst example in the video is the story in which a man named Alex had sex with a woman while she was passed out. In other words, he raped her. The training module does not say that he raped her but rather than he "committed sexual assault." This phrasing is minimizing rape, and for what purpose?

This story leads into the section called "acquaintance assault" as opposed to "acquaintance rape." This whitewashing language should have been a red flag for our Title IX coordinator and other administrators involved in choosing this training module. I am shocked it was not.

Another red flag which should have immediately stuck out to our Title IX coordinator is that the rape Alex committed is described as a "mistake" and the video goes on to say that Alex made many mistakes throughout the night. Rape is not a "mistake." It is a deliberate violation.

During the "what should you do when a friend has been sexually assaulted" part of the training, the suggestion "encourage your friend to report" is made. This is widely irresponsible advice as reporting can have serious unintended consequences for the victim, and no victim should be encouraged to report or not to report — it should be up to them (for more information on this topic, I refer people to my Sept. 22, 2016 article entitled "Listen to the victims of sexual assault").

As someone who has been writing about sexual assault on campus for the past three years, I am personally insulted that this is the level of understanding and intelligence the University has towards this issue. I am indescribably disgusted. I couldn't even cover half of the problems with the program. You all knew better, and we know you knew better, because conversations concerning these issues have been going on for years with more intelligent conclusions than anything to come out of the training module.

I would have ended this article with something like "I hope the University and Title IX coordinator can reflect on these problems and come up with something better" but after the experience of this training course, I have no hope that they will (or even have the will to) come up with something better.

The sad news is I feel like crying after taking this training module. This is what the school has us do, after years of research and activism and analysis? No Hopkins student should have to take this module. I feel utterly defeated.

At least I won the "Awesome-ness" badge for answering all the questions.

Emeline Armitage is a junior International Studies major from Cleveland.

"Model minority" myth shrouds discrimination



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American man, was murdered in Michigan in 1982.

By ROLLIN HU

Sometimes I imagine what it would be like for me to be a model. I can only imagine, because the market for Asian male models is rather small, and I'm not the best looking out of all of them. But fortunately enough, society has deemed me a model minority, and that's the closest I'll ever get to actually being a model.

I am industrious, believe in the value of hard work and contribute greatly to society, probably in STEM fields. I've overcome great barriers as an immigrant and never cause problems in society because I am polite, quiet and keep my head down.

I always look the same as all of my other fellow Asian Americans, even though we may come from vastly different parts of the enormous continent of Asia. There is no need to distinguish between us. Even though our eyes are small, our contributions and successes are big.

We are evidence that the "American Dream" can come true. We are the model minority. Why can't the "lazy Mexi-

cans" and the "drug-addled blacks" work hard and progress through this race-blind society like us?

When statistics show that those of us with Asian-sounding last names are less likely to be called for job interviews, we don't complain. We get that we are perpetual foreigners. When white actors and actresses are cast in Asian roles, it's typical. Our parents have taught us to be doctors, lawyers and engineers from the start. Also, the movies we would star in wouldn't do so well in the box office, and that's what matters, in the end.

When we, Asian Americans, are beat death by baseball bats or shot in bars in obvious hate crimes, we don't march in the streets calling for accountability and justice. Who is Vincent Chin? Who is Srinivas Kuchibhotla? Such foreign hard-to-pronounce names. Do these lives matter?

And no one else has to stand for us either. We don't need such a thing as "Asian-American allies." What an absurd concept. We are a model minority, transcending above all the racial groups of America. Except for the white people of course. They are the ones who let us be the model minority.

And as model minorities, we have no place nor inclination to help other minorities. They didn't work hard like us. It's not like we faced rampant lynching over the course of our history in this country. It's not like we faced comically discriminatory immigration bans. We have no sympathy for them.

We don't have to stand for other oppressed groups, because they are clearly underserving. And others shouldn't have to stand for us because we have no grievances with anything and are just a totally perfect model minority. We are all part of this totally perfect post-racial society.

Last week, there was a piece in *The News-Letter* about experiencing microaggressions as an Asian American. There was also a piece about the legacy of Japanese internment camps.

Last week, two Indian Americans were shot at a bar in Kansas because the shooter wanted them to "get out of [his] country."

Microaggression has become outright aggression. A history of racial profiling and marginalization has culminated in the deaths of the innocent. The myth of being a model minority has not and will not protect us. The only defense we have is to raise our voices, not only for our own tragedies but for the tragedies facing others too. And hope others do the same for us.

Rollin Hu is a sophomore history and economics double major from Massachusetts. He is a News & Features Editor.

Rising anti-Semitism reveals closeted bigotry in America

By GILLIAN LELCHUK

Since Trump's inauguration, anti-Semitism has been rising at a disturbing rate. According to CNN, 48 Jewish community centers (JCCs) in 26 states have received almost 70 bomb threats, and two Jewish cemeteries, in Philadelphia and in Missouri, were vandalized.

This is not normal, but unfortunately, it isn't particularly surprising. America has had an interesting relationship with Jews — from the ban of many Jewish refugees during the Holocaust, to the longtime, nuanced support of the state of Israel. America is no stranger to anti-Semitism, but many people had believed the hardest work

was behind us.

People often joke about how Jews run Hollywood or the media, and while that is of course an over-exaggerated stereotype, there is some truth to it. With more and more Jews in positions of public influence, being Jewish didn't feel as othering as it once had.

In my own experience, I had always felt different being Jewish, but never in a negative way. Most of my friends celebrated Christmas and Easter, but I got to teach them about Hanukkah and Passover. My religion made me feel special, and no one ever criticized me for it.

I had rarely even witnessed anti-Semitism growing up. The few occasions when someone would crack a joke about

how Jews were greedy or had big noses. They always stopped once they found out I was Jewish.

Obviously my personal experience is not indicative of that of every single American Jew, but I don't believe mine is a rarity.

That's part of the reason why the anti-Semitism of today is all the more disappointing. Prior to this election, I truly believed people had evolved beyond this. People understood Judaism, to an extent, and the most discrimination I saw in the news was the so-called "War on Christmas."

When Trump actually won the election, everything changed. That sounds dramatic, I know, but it really is true. Trump's presidency allowed the racists of the world to step forward and be vocal about their racism. Islamophobia is the norm, black lives don't matter and trans people are just dressing in drag. And it brought out all the closet anti-Semites. Now that hating Jews is trendy again, people are committing ac-

tual hate crimes. Maybe the bomb threats are just teenagers pulling a prank, but JCC administrators have to take them seriously. Many JCCs have preschools, gyms and youth centers.

And it's not just Jews. Muslim Americans face some of the most xenophobic behavior we've seen in this country in recent years. In addition to the government-sanctioned discrimination known as the travel ban, four mosques have burned in 2017. Authorities report that three of the four were caused by arson, and they have not announced a source for the fourth fire.

This is not normal. Trump has had repeated opportunities to condemn the threats and violence against minority religious groups, and time and time again he claims he's not racist or anti-Semitic and circles around the question.

If our own president is not going to take a stand against the hate brewing in this country, then we need to. As we've shown over the past two months, people do have power, even if we're just calling attention to the problems. We need to stand up, and we need our representatives to stand up, and maybe Trump will stop putting his foot in his mouth.

Gillian Lelchuk is a junior Writing Seminars and mathematics double major from Los Alamitos, Calif. She is the Opinions Editor.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Two Jewish cemeteries, in Philadelphia and in Missouri, have been vandalized since Trump took office.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

The DMC presents a celebration of diversity
in electronic music culture and technology.



NEW FORMS / NEW PATHS

A Weekend of New Electronic Music and Ideas Comes to JHU
March 3-5, 2017

Electronic Music Concert

Friday 3/3, 8-10pm

Mattin, Jones Building 101

A concert of radical new electronic and electroacoustic music at a crossroads of styles, extended techniques, and technology.

Circuit Building Workshop

Saturday 3/4, 1-5pm

The DMC MakerSpace

Spend the day with TECHNE creating and musically experimenting with your very own light controlled oscillator instrument!

Panel Discussion

Sunday 3/5, 1-3pm

Mattin Center Cafe

This panel brings together esteemed musicians and writers from the Baltimore and Washington DC area.



DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER

| studentaffairs.jhu.edu/dmc

THE B SECTION

N-L

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

MARCH 2, 2017

Peabody Awards

Peabody Awards

Arts & Entertainment

In Jordan Peele's *Get Out*, racism is the real horror — B3

WJHU hosts two local artists in show at the LaB — B3

Looking back on Janet Jackson and Nipplegate — B4

Science & Technology

New planets found orbiting nearby resemble Earth — B7

MRIs can determine if children will develop autism — B7

Synthetic materials inspired by spider silk — B8

Sports

M. and W. Track win Centennial Conference Crown — B10

The most noteworthy NBA trades this season — B10

W. Lacrosse loses to UPenn Quakers in home game — B12

YOUR WEEKEND MARCH 2-5

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

R. Sikoryak discusses *Terms and Conditions*, Atomic Books, 7 p.m.

R. Sikoryak, a cartoonist for *The New Yorker*, will give a presentation on the process behind his latest graphic novel, a comic version of the iTunes terms and conditions. A book signing will follow. Free.

Friday

Blagstarr BREAK It DOWN, The Windup Space, 8 p.m.

A party celebrating the unique, genre-transcendent music of local DJ, producer, and recording artist Blagstarr with special performances and appearances. No listed cover.

First Friday, Maryland Science Center, 5 p.m.

Every First Friday of the month from Jan. 6 - June 2 the Maryland Science Center celebrates with discounted admission from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m! Admission includes permanent exhibit halls, the planetarium and the IMAX theater. The Kids Room, The Shed and SciLab will close at 6 p.m. \$10.

Saturday

Knife Sharpening, Charm City Farms, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

This workshop will give you the starting skills you need to purchase quality knives as well as how to sharpen your knives. Bring 3-5 knives you are familiar with to sharpen! \$15.

Faun and a Pan Flute, Murderboats, and Xenga+Marc Miller, Holy Underground, 8 p.m.

A guaranteed-to-be-weird show in a DIY artist-run space featuring Faun and a Pan Flute from Atlanta, GA as well as local artists Murderboats as well as Xenga+Marc Miller. Suggested donation \$5-10.

Sunday

Fret Fest, Peabody Institute, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This program for students of all levels and ages is a great way to discover the guitar or advance your playing skills. The 2017 Fret Festival will include workshops, master classes and a concert by acclaimed rock, jazz and classical guitarists G.E. Smith, David Tronzo, Kimb Perlak and Paul Bollenback. \$30 full day admission, \$20 for guest artist concert.

W.C. Harlan: Remington's modern speakeasy

By CAMILLA DOHLMAN
For The News-Letter

Remington is experiencing a renaissance.

Old favorites Paper Moon Cafe and The Dizz have been joined by newcomers to the Baltimore food scene such as Parts & Labor, R. House and Clavel, which have become instantly popular among Hopkins students and locals alike.

Meet W.C. Harlan. Located at 400 W 23rd St on the corner of Hampden Avenue, about a 20 minute walk from campus, it is Remington's best kept secret.

It is like Clavel's older, cooler sister (it is literally owned by the same person, Lane Harlan). Open since 2013, W.C. Harlan has managed to fly relatively under the radar: I'm a second semester senior and I first heard of it in the fall.

Of course, its inconspicuous position in Baltimore's bar scene is probably intentional, as W.C. Harlan has billed itself as a 1920s-esque Speakeasy.

Poorly marked, it's almost as if it doesn't want to be found. (I walked by it about four times before finally finding it. Look for a black door that says "Enter" on it in white script.) Inside you'll be greeted by a flannel &



COURTESY OF CAMILLA DOHLMAN AND TESS FIELDS

WC Harlan: the bread plate with two tasty cocktails and a dimly lit table with the bar in the background.

beanie-wearing bartender, soothing jazz music and a spicy aroma the source of which I can't quite put my finger on.

Yet if you come on a weekend night, this narrow townhouse bar is likely to be full of hip Baltimoreans enjoying Old Fashioneds by candlelight. The decor reminds me vaguely of my grandmother's house — if she had been a 1920s bootlegger — but the aesthetic is enjoyable all the same.

W.C. Harlan's menu rotates regularly, offering a panoply of seasonal choices and daily specials using liquors I've

never heard of. Cocktails at WC go from anywhere from \$8-\$13 (The cocktail du jour, which changes daily, is always \$8).

While definitely a pricier option than PJ's or Charles Village Pub, the unique drink selection makes it worth it. Although if your budget is tight, Natty Boh is still an option for only \$2.50.

If you're feeling a bit more lavish, go for the Pisco Sour, a frothy, creamy egg white drink that is seasoned with chamomile and yerba mate honey syrup.

The Vin Chaud, i.e. mulled wine, is another great option that comple-

ments W.C. Harlan's cozy, grandma's attic-esque vibe.

For munchies (and for the under 21 crowd), the bread plate (\$12) is an excellent option that comes with brie, dates, tapenade, and pickled green beans. Trust me, it's good.

WC Harlan is a perfect location to take your friend who is visiting from out of town if you want to convince them that you were telling the truth when you told them that Baltimore is cool. And since it is only a short walk (or Uber ride) away, you have no excuse not to go.

Senior spring weekends are ripe for reminiscing

By HANNAH MELTON
For The News-Letter

As senior spring zooms closer to its end, I find that the weekends slip through my fingers like sand. My friends and I have seemingly endless to-do lists of places we have to go before we graduate, and cramming them all in poses a fun challenge.

But last weekend I didn't check off anything new... and I didn't feel as though the time was wasted. Instead, I revisited some of my Baltimore staples, the favorites that I have taken for granted over time. Here's a glimpse at the places I'll miss most come May 24th.

While I've written about the 32nd Street Farmers Market, formerly the Waverly Farmers Market, before, I'm forced to sing its praises at least once more.

If, like me, you've become numb to the pure wonder of the buzzing lot full of happy people and their fresh produce, try visiting the market solo this Saturday.

Arrive between 9 and 10 a.m. for the full hustle and bustle: The fish guy is back now that it's spring, so if you want some salmon I recommend starting a bit earlier.

When you walk into the square, take a moment to really look around. Don't just fixate on your veggies of choice. Look at the people; They're a fairly funky bunch, a mix of many colors and ages and intensities of shopping.

Sample a stand you haven't patronized before. Buy some bizarre produce, sniff some fresh-baked bread, and leave feeling happy with the high goods-to-price ratio.

The farmers' market satisfies mind, body, soul and wallet. To me, it is one

of the best things about living in Charles Village. When I go to the Farmers Market I feel truly a part of a larger community. I suddenly become a neighbor to hundreds of people I have never met. When I move away from Baltimore this summer, I'll miss the Farmers Market as much as (or more than!) I miss Gilman.

Charmington's holds a special place in my heart. Originally discovered with another senior friend of mine, I was happy to take an underclassman pal to the co-op coffeehouse this weekend.

Nestled in Remington at 2601 Howard St., Charmington's is just far enough away to feel like an escape from campus but close enough to make a Sunday coffee trip reasonable.

Open early morning to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and until 5 p.m. on Sundays, the shop feels hip and communal any hour of the day.

It accomplishes what Bird in Hand aimed for and missed: At Charmington's, the long wooden tables allow enough space to sit comfortably amongst strangers.

What struck me about Charmington's on this visit was the adult feeling of the place. It samples young, hip Baltimore perfectly: a mix of 20- and 30-somethings, a healthy diversity of race and snippets of intellectual conversation going on at each table.

There's none of the undercurrent of tension that you find in Brody Cafe, where everyone seems to eat a little too fast or talk a little too loud.

Charmington's is zen in a progressive way. No one cares about what you're doing or when your next exam is. But you don't feel ignored, you feel camaraderie with your fellow



COURTESY OF HANNAH MELTON

FACT: Charmington's lattes are approximately the size of your face.

coffee drinkers. It was fun for me, a senior, to share this special space with my younger friend. I want her to have as many lazy Sunday study sessions here as I did.

The OG friend spot, One World Café is certainly a staple for me. I've spent many an afternoon taking full advantage of their free refills as I study in the open-seating area and many a brunch laboring over which special to order because how am I supposed to choose between potentially perfect pancakes and an orgasm-inducing omelette?

Lunch and dinner at One World can be very affordable and very healthy, or, if I'm feeling extravagant, bountiful beyond measure.

One World cake slices are my go-to for friend's birthdays when I've forgotten to bake, and now that I'm 21, the drink specials (\$3.50 margs on Tuesdays!) can't be beat.

I've eaten at One World

with my family, my boyfriend, my ex-boyfriend, my roommate, my ex-roommate, my running buddy, my new friends, my old friends, my professors, my boss and just by myself.

I've eaten One World cake for breakfast a few times (and once during a 9 a.m. Orgo lecture). I've laughed a lot and reminisced about old memories, and created new ones. I've even cried once or twice.

My point? Find your One World. Where is it that you've been a thousand times with friends? What place did you sow the seeds of many friendships, where you head to by default when you need a good feed?

Whether it's Ajumma, Carma's or Tamber's, I'm sure each senior has a Charles Village favorite. Take a trip down memory lane before you graduate and have a meal where you're aware of the subtle beauty in the place.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WJHU hosts two artists at LaB live show



COURTESY OF WILL SCERBO

WJHU, the on-campus radio station, has hosted multiple events.



Will Kirsch
The Cut-Rate Critic

On Friday, Feb. 24, WJHU hosted a small concert at the LaB, a coffee shop in the Homewood dorm that I was entirely unaware of prior to that night. The show featured two acts — Nina Gala, a local folk artist and Andy Villanueva, a Hopkins junior and musician.

This was the first show held at the LaB, which is the University's attempt to manufacture a trendy coffee shop. It is a fairly bizarre place in that it has all the accoutrements of a café — tacky old coffee making equipment, dark wood, stools — but you have to swipe your J-Card to get in. Not entirely sure how long it has been there or whose idea it was to build it but

there it is. Additionally, I am sad to report that it does not sell alcohol.

Regardless of its questionable purpose and equally questionable location — Homewood is basically in another state — the LaB does provide a show-space for WJHU.

This is a good thing because the radio station is a musically adventurous outfit that do their part to champion local artists. Such a mission is an honorable one given that music culture on campus is perhaps not as robust as it could be. The fact that Nickelback is played at the gym is a pretty good measure of that want.

The crowd at the LaB was a varied one and some 20 or 30 people fit into a relatively small space in scatter-cushioned comfort. Nina Gala was the first on the stage and by the time she was ready to perform, the warmth of the tequila I drank before leaving my apartment had begun to spread like gangrene through my torso. It was an almost beautiful experience.

This comforting poison put me in the right

state of mind to listen to some soothing music.

Nina is a Baltimore singer and guitarist who bills herself as “an experimental folk singer,” which is an accurate description. Her music, most of which was from her recently released EP *gala.*, was simple but textured, her lyrics more metaphorical than the average folk singer's. Gala's simple guitar accented the slight waver in her voice well, combining to form that controlled emotion which makes folk music good. Also, her fashion sense was impeccable.

As Gala wrapped up her set, a priest showed up. This is not particularly relevant to anything regarding the concert but it seemed like something worth sharing. It also led me to reflect on my sinful existence and consider how far I have fallen from the grace of God — for all of thirty seconds.

Thankfully, before I was forced into even more introspection, Andy Villanueva took the stage. Much like the first act, Villanueva was largely accompanied

only by his own guitar. However, for his first song, he recruited two audience members to harmonize. That was a refreshing Beach Boys style twist, although the Beach Boys were not a folk band and that was a horrible comparison.

Andy then picked up his guitar and launched into some folk ballads. His voice, like Gala's, had that subtle emotional tinge that is vital to good folk music.

Villanueva's set soon took a sharp turn down memory lane, though. He called David Shi, WJHU's studio manager and financial director, onto the stage to join him in a cover of “Creep” by Radiohead. The two shared a mutual love for the band and it seems likely that everyone has a fond memory of listening to that song and weeping over their high school crush—although that may have been an overshare.

Once Shi took the stage, things changed very quickly. Thom Yorke does not put nearly as much passion into singing his own song as Shi did. It was an intense

SEE WJHU, PAGE B5

Get Out uses race to make great horror film

By DUBRAY KINNEY
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The opening scene of *Get Out* is maybe its most poignant. LaKeith Stanfield (known for his breakout roles in *Atlanta* and *Short Term 12*) walks down the street and faces a typical horror movie scenario. For years the thought of “black horror movie” is synonymous with the Wayans brothers' *Scary Movie* series and Stanfield emulates that series' “black guy in a horror situation” commentary that made that series so famous.

Get Out takes the situation a step further, however, with a chilling opening that ends with Stanfield stiff as a board over the shoulder of an unseen attacker, his head out of place and his body soon limp in a quasi-lynching motif. From that point you're sure to realize that this is going to be something different.

One of the most exciting film prospects of 2017 has finally been released. *Get Out*, directed by Jordan Peele (of *Key & Peele*

fame) combines three things that I couldn't be more interested in: social commentary, racial humor and a plot filled with horror/thriller elements.

Get Out, which was released this past Friday, turns a standard horror movie plot on its head while defying the tropes that many people (including myself) think the genre lives and dies by.

It follows Chris (played by the star of *Black Mirror*'s second episode, Daniel Kaluuya) as four months into a relationship with Rose (played by Allison Williams, best known for her starring role in HBO's *Girls*). With their relationship going well, Rose invites Chris over to her family's house in the country to meet her parents. Chris is slightly less than enthusiastic but goes along on the trip regardless.

Once at the house he meets Rose's parents, Dean and Missy, as well as Rose's brother, Jeremy. The family lives on land that is most likely meant

SEE GET OUT, PAGE B4

The Women's March's problematic vagina rhetoric

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

There is no doubt that the Women's March was an incredible moment that has already been immortalized as the largest single-day protest in United States history. It was incredibly empowering to see such a diverse range of people come together to make their voices heard.

The demonstration was proudly intersectional, standing for not just women's rights but LGBT+ rights and racial equality as well as current issues like healthcare reform and environmental protection. Protesters explored various creative avenues to make themselves seen and heard, leading to some ingenious signs, slogans and other symbols like the now-iconic p'ssyhats.

That's great. After all, under an administration that has so far done its best to discredit or outright squash artistic expression, it is now more important than ever for Americans to foster safe environments for creativity.

And I know that our new Supreme Leader gives us a lot of material to work with, having risen to his position by making bigoted and exclusionary statements. Often, what he says is easy to turn on its head to use against him, some notable examples being “bad hombres,” “nasty woman,” and, of course, “grab them by the p'ssy.”

Now, readers be warned, as I'm about to say something that has proved to be controversial in the weeks following the women's march, although it shouldn't be: P'ssy rhetoric can be exclusionary to transgender women.

To be clear, this is not an attack on anyone's

personal experience with the Women's March. I understand that it meant different things to different people, and I understand that some trans people may not share this view.

As a cisgender person, I recognize that I don't have the authority to say definitively how the March affected the trans community (although I don't think there is one definitive answer to this). But why is it a radical concept to say that if a trans woman felt excluded because of the p'ssy rhetoric, then her voice deserves to be heard and validated?

I don't think the intent was to exclude trans women. It was truly inspiring to see the seas of pink hats, to see women creating these symbols of

resistance to counter the disgusting red baseball caps that herald Trump supporters.

According to the creators of the p'ssyhat, the pink color just stems from the traditional association of pink with femininity and isn't meant to invoke female anatomy. In fact, many people offer the explanation that, in the recent wave of resistance, the p'ssy rhetoric no longer refers directly to female anatomy but has instead become a symbol of womanhood.

If that's the case, then slogans like “p'ssy grabs back” become an intersectional rallying cry that all women can embrace.

Well, there's a couple of problems with this. For one, it's not up to cis people to tell trans women how to feel about the rhetoric. In fact, it's not even up to other trans

women, because there is no universal experience for trans women, and there was no universal experience for demonstrators in the Women's March.

Secondly, it all goes beyond the direct exclusion of trans women. Even the most well-intentioned p'ssy rhetoric normalizes the advent of the trans-exclusionary radical feminist (TERF). Like the sickening cancer of the alt-right neo-Nazis, the population of TERFs has been steadily growing for the last several years and has become ever-more publicly visible since Trump's candidacy.

TERFs claim that trans women aren't really women but effeminate men who have been forced into a female gender binary by society,

while trans men are just women trying to claim male privilege (if you're a TERF and believe I have improperly defined your beliefs, please direct your concerns to @RichardBSpencer on Twitter to find an understanding ear).

Now, am I saying that

everyone who marched with a pussy slogan is a TERF? Of course not, in the same way that I wouldn't directly accuse every Trump supporter of being a neo-Nazi.

And yet, in the same way that the tolerance of every Trump supporter validates the extreme voices of white supremacists, the normalization of pussy rhetoric lends TERFs a platform through which to espouse their blatantly exclusionary ideology.

Despite the massive volume of wholesome, clever and provocative anti-Trump content that came out of the Women's March, in the last few weeks it has been all but forgotten in the debate about trans-inclusion. Going forward, we need more of this inspiring creativity from women all around the world, and we can't afford to be bogged down by divisive rhetoric.

It is in our best interest to be mindful of trans inclusivity in the future to address Trump with a united opposition. The voices of trans women deserve to be validated equally with all women. Silencing should be directed at the TERFs who are fighting against intersectional feminism.

One Day at a Time is a strong Netflix original

By MARIANA RINCON
For The News-Letter

With everything that is coming to Netflix this season, it is easy to get lost among all the new films and TV series that seem to appear each day. For a regular viewer, it can be hard to decide what to watch (or binge watch) among the many highly-publicized and critically-acclaimed TV series that Netflix has to offer.

But perhaps one of the best shows to watch is also one of the most underrated. With a smaller budget and far less media attention than other Netflix originals, *One Day at a Time* is a hidden jewel in the ocean of new releases that seems to grow more each month.

A reboot of the 70s sitcom of the same name, *One Day at a Time* tells the story of the Alvarez family, composed of Penelope, the mom; Elena and Alex, the kids; and Lydia, the grandmother. We see real people with real problems who are portrayed in an extremely relatable way. They face difficult situations at home, at school and at work, and they work together to solve

them.

The series shows the family's daily lives in a domestic setting while tackling political and social issues, but manages to never lose its humor.

These issues are at first woven within a seemingly tangential plotline, but they gain more importance throughout each episode and in the end, lead to a certain degree of character growth for each of the persons involved.

We see Penelope quitting her job because her less-qualified male co-worker has a higher salary than she in one episode, and we see Elena's best friend being forced to live in the Alvarez house because her parents have been deported in the next installation.

The show also explores gender roles, family dynamics, mental health, LGBT+ issues, and religion (or lack thereof) in a relatable and sensible manner. And while these issues temporarily make the tone of the series more serious, the show remains lighthearted overall with regular bursts of humor and happy

SEE NETFLIX, PAGE B4



MOBILUS IN MOBILI/CC-BY-SA-2.0
Hundreds of thousands gathered for the Women's March on Jan. 21.

Charting the legacy of Janet Jackson's nipple



Kyra Lesser
KIKI LEAKS

We all know those moments in time that every person, no matter who you are, remembers vividly: the birth of your younger sibling, getting rejected by your first crush after waiting by their desk for three hours with a cupcake on Valentine's Day, the death of Michael Jackson, the first time you were massively high. All very normal, run-of-the-mill stuff. But where were you on Feb. 1, 2004?

I'll tell you where you were. You were sitting on your couch, most likely in the spot your older brother just farted in, attempting to scoop salsa on top of your Tostitos chip. Your mom is somewhat drunk because she has inhaled two Corona Lites, and your father is screaming at Tom Brady through the television out of pure anger, jealousy or lust. Yep, I'm talking about Superbowl XXXVIII.

Now, why is this night relevant? Is it because it was one of the memories you have of your whole family together prior to your parents divorce? Try again. Obviously, this night should be important to you because it was the first night you saw a nipple that wasn't your own or any of your male family members'. This was the night of Nipplegate.

For those of you who did not get to experience the wonderful situation illustrated above, I'll explain. Superbowl XXXVIII was held at the Reliant Stadium in Houston, TX. The game was between the Carolina Panthers and the New England D*ckheads, excuse me, Patriots.

The winner would be the NFL champion of 2003. Exciting stuff, right? Oh, and Beyoncé sang the National Anthem. She wasn't even big enough yet to be the halftime act. Which means someone bigger than BEYONCÉ was slated to perform.

Who was it, you wonder? In some attempt to remain relevant, CBS Sports asked MTV to pick a smattering of acts instead of one main performer in support of their "Choose or Lose" election campaign — not to be confused with P. Diddy's oddly aggressive "Vote or Die."

The line-up order was Jessica Simpson, Janet Jackson, Justin Timberlake, P. Diddy (this man just loves elections!), Nelly and Kid Rock. After Simpson did whatever the hell it was she did in 2003, it was Queen Janet's turn to perform. She first crooned "All For You," a 2001 title-track banger produced by Jam and Lewis. She next stomped her way into "Rhythm Nation."

Then came "Rock Your Body." Out stepped a fresh-faced Mr. Timberlake, hot off the heels of his solo career debut. The two began to grind, gyrating as if they were at a dance hall, in the



Jo ANNA/CC-BY-SA-2.0

Cultural icon Janet Jackson performs during her sixth tour, Number Ones, Up Close and Personal.

middle of July. "I'm gonna have you naked by the end of this song" — that's when it happened.

The moment your young, childish mind realized jewelry was not limited to your ears. The moment you realized you wanted to go to Claire's and ask if they could pierce your nipple.

With this lyric, Justin Timberlake altered America's collective apple pie-and-baseball-loving brains forever by tearing off a piece of Janet's costume and revealing her nipple shield and piercing.

And what did CBS do? Somehow they weren't as entranced by the shimmering silver sun encompassing Janet's mammary and made a quick cut to an aerial view of Reliant Stadium. Deemed a "wardrobe malfunction" by the press, J & J were not exactly shining beacons of love during the public post-Halftime show.

After the game, CBS received an enormous outpouring of phone calls; Most were complaints with the occasional creepy thank you. According to Wikipedia, Nipplegate is "the most rewatched moment in TiVo history." If that doesn't scream 2004, I don't know what does.

How did this affect Miss Jackson if ya nasty? After exposing her ya-ya's to 140 million viewers, Janet issued an apology stating that she never had the intention to offend anyone and the move was meant to expose only her red lace bra. Still, Janet was barred from the Grammy's that year and halted plans for her starring role in a biopic of Lena Horne. Even a Mickey Mouse statue at Disney World that donned Jackson's "Rhythm Nation" costume was taken down.

Janet had it rough. Not like Britney in 2008 at the VMA's rough, but rough. But let's fast forward past this part because it makes me sad. Let's bring in 2009. Janet reinvigorated her career quicker than Donald Trump's sexual stamina with the iconic album *Discipline*.

If "Feedback" was not the first song you grinded with a boy too, then I apologize. Janet began acting again, in movies such as *Why Did I Get Married?* and *For Colored Girls*. And in my most favorite turn of events, she found love and has a beautiful baby son.

Oh, and how did Justin fare after all of this? A

simple slap on the wrist and featured spots on some of the biggest singles of 2004. The patriarchy strikes again!

Nipplegate changed all of us. You may think you don't remember it, but you do and you probably blocked out the memory. Nipplegate was not only a monumental hit to CBS, but a dagger in the heart of the music industry as well, particularly for females. Nipplegate taught me that if you accidentally get part of your bustier ripped off, it is not the ripper's fault, but the one who wears the nipple shield. And that doesn't necessarily seem fair. All Janet did was have a nipple piercing. Why did she get all of the punishment?

These double standards in the music industry have continued to this day. While male singers rarely get any flack for what they wear, what their bodies look like or with whom they're sleeping, female singers have all of these factors in-

tensely scrutinized.

Think about a rapper like Fat Joe. This man has literally made a career out of his weight and being a sub-par rapper. Riches, bitches and extravagance constantly surround Fat Joe.

Now let's take a look at something like Lady Gaga's most recent Superbowl performance. Gaga belted upon us a 13-minute long performance where she did the impossible. She belted out most of her classics while simultaneously dancing the entire time. Yet for some odd reason, all America could focus on was Gaga's stomach. A stomach, by the way, that is more toned than one of the girls from "The Hills" stepping out of a tanning salon.

America's attention was not on Gaga's fantastic ability to give a whirlwind performance, but on the sliver of skin that was poking out of her sequined diaper. What does that say about us as a country, a society, even as humans? Whatever it is, I know that it makes me uncomfortable. But not as uncomfortable as I was when I watched my dad rewind Justin revealing Janet's nipple 27 times.

These double standards in the music industry have continued to this day.

Get Out is essential viewing for Hopkins students

GET OUT, FROM B3

to emulate a plantation like field and more worryingly they have black housekeepers that somewhat closely resembles the slave and master dynamic of yesteryear. Yet, the family is undeniably progressive. In fact, a running gag in the film is how much of an "ally" Rose's father is.

He constantly mentions that if he could have, he would've voted in Obama for a third term. Yet, there's also the somewhat casual racism with which he talks with Chris, punctuating every sentence with "My man!"

Things get even more strange when Chris agrees to be hypnotized by Rose's mother (who uses hypnotism in her field as a psychologist) in an effort to stop Chris from smoking. Not to mention the way that other older friends of the family (all white) interact with Chris at the annual family get together which happens to fall on the weekend that Chris and Rose visit.

Throughout the film, there's a very comfortable feeling (similar to the stronger aspects of *The VVitch*), that something isn't right. The way that the racism is sort of normalized as well as the fact that it feels like it doesn't come from a bad place makes you question

throughout the entire film whether or not something sinister is going on or whether the family is really just tone deaf?

I won't spoil that reveal, but I can say that the film has one of the most well-written scripts that I've seen in a while (but then again, I do watch a lot of trash often so take from that what you will). It feels like every line of dialogue leads to a plot reveal that doesn't feel tacked on. Small turns of phrase flip the entire meanings of seemingly empty sequences of the film.

I haven't touched on one of the best performances of the film by maybe the person who will be the breakout star of the movie. Comedian Lil Rel Howery

Netflix original touches on Latino identity

FILMS, FROM B3

endings in each episode.

The series also plays with stereotypes commonly seen in representations of Latino characters. There's the salsa-dancing grandmother with the heavy accent and the daughter who doesn't seem to fully appreciate her Cuban heritage. There's drinking of Café Bustelo and an exploration of gender roles and expectations common in Latino families.

While an important part of the story, these references to Cuban-American culture enrich the plot without taking over the storyline. The characters are not defined by their heritage. Rather, they are made more human because of it. The show attempts to recreate the experiences and personalities of immigrant families while making fun of the certain stereotypes that have become mainstream in TV representation of Latino characters. The show, then, is about a normal family with normal problems that happens to be Cuban-American rather than relying solely on this identity to create stereotypical and cliché situations.

The series falls short, however, when the characters remain one-dimensional. Each character has defining qualities that allow for interesting relationships among them and a certain level of dramatic tension.

Penelope is hardworking, but very strong-headed, Elena is a fierce activist, Alex is vain and selfish and Lydia is rather superficial and outspoken. Yet, the insistence that these characters stay within their strictly defined roles keeps them from having altogether authentic inter-

actions.

Of course, the clash of personalities creates very interesting dynamics within the family, and there seems to be some minor character development in at least two characters by the end of each episode, mostly regarding whatever social issue the series explores. This minuscule change, however, seems to disappear by the next installment, and the family encounters similar situations and problems between them because nothing, apparently, has changed.

In this way, the series can come across slightly repetitive, since, even when plotlines differ, interactions between characters have not changed much. The series is at its best when these conventions are challenged and when the characters realize their own flaws and seem to leave their confining traits to become more complex characters temporarily.

Alex, the youngest son, exemplifies this trend. His superficiality is staggering, and while his vanity and selfishness certainly have a comedic purpose, his lack of character development throughout the series as a whole makes him flat and unappealing.

He is redeemed briefly at the end of some episodes when he realizes how his selfish actions can affect the rest of his family and takes a compensatory action in order to make things right again. During the next episode, however, he'll fall back into his defining traits as though nothing had changed.

Nonetheless, the series as a whole is a heartwarming family comedy, and its smart treatment of contemporary social issues definitely makes it worth watching.



PEABODY AWARDS/CC-BY-2.0

Director Jordan Peele and partner in comedy Keegan-Michael Key pose with an award for their TV show.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Nicki Minaj clashes with artist Remy Ma



JEN/CC-BY-2.0
Rapper and singer Nicki Minaj performs live for fans in Toronto.

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

As a vegetarian, beef is something I try to consume as little of as possible. And yet, when the Queen of Rap, Nicki Minaj, finds her title contested, beef can be difficult to avoid.

That's exactly what's going on right now between Nicki, and rapper Remy Ma, who had claims to fame well before Nicki rose to superstardom. Their feud is a decade old now, but has been dormant for much of that time while Remy served six years in prison.

Disclaimer: I'm on Nicki's side, if you couldn't tell. And yet I have to admit that it's on her for starting the beef in 2007 when she took shots at Remy on her breakout mixtape *Playtime Is Over*. Remy said that she confronted Nicki about it and that she neither confirmed nor denied who the lyrics were about.

Remy's stay in prison seemed to kill the feud, and she even congratulated Nicki on her BET award win in 2016, but then, in a remix of Nicki's 2014 track, "Truffle Butter," Remy made it pretty clear that she wasn't ready to quit.

Since then, Remy has thrown more than enough shade around with a few remixes and guest verses, but has denied targeting Nicki.

The next direct acknowledgment of the beef was from Nicki in her verses on Jason Derulo's "Swalla" and Gucci Mane's "Make Love." Being an all-around mediocre track, her lines on "Swalla" aren't especially strong, just a warning.

But then there's "Make Love," which features one of Nicki's best verses ever and a far more direct attack on Remy. Released last

week, the song has already exploded in popularity (by which I mean that I've been listening to it on repeat since Friday).

And where does that leave us? Well, Remy wasn't done. She dropped "shETHER" on Saturday afternoon and as much as I wanted to hate it, it is so good.

To the people who are comparing it to Drake's "Back To Back," please. "Back To Back" is to "shETHER" what veggie burgers are to real burgers. After "shETHER," Drake's diss of Meek sounds a lot like a letter Oscar Wilde might have written to Lord Alfred Douglas.

My point is that "shETHER" was very lyrically powerful and really ripped into Nicki. When it comes down to it, I'll choose Nicki any day of the week, but I respect Remy's mastery of the art. After listening to "shETHER," I had to, because it really floored me.

The concern really is that Remy didn't leave herself enough room to expand. It's hard to imagine a track that more violently attacks Nicki and, as a Nicki fan, I don't want to imagine such a track. But the same worry applies to Nicki after "Make Love," because it sets a high standard to beat.

Nicki made a semi-response with her Instagram posting of the sales figures of Remy Ma and collaborator Fat Joe's (together they made the hit, "All The Way Up") latest album, *Plata O Plomo*. The post was captioned, "Yikes."

And don't worry, I'm sure we can expect new developments soon. After a track like "shETHER," Nicki isn't going to disappear. I think it's safe to say we can expect more shots to be fired in the next few days.

2017 Oscars has its fill of gaffes and errors

By KATHERINE LOGAN
Staff Writer

How to possibly recap what will likely go down in history as one of the weirdest Oscar ceremonies of all time? From the Best Picture mix-up when *La La Land* was accidentally read instead of the actual winner, *Moonlight*, to Jimmy Kimmel pranking a bunch of everyday people on a Hollywood tour (or were they actors?), to candy falling from the sky, to a producer who's still alive being featured in the In Memoriam segment, it was a wildly entertaining if dysfunctional evening. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's take a few steps back and start with the red carpet.

While I agree with the fundamental notion of the "#AskHerMore" campaign, as someone that appreciates the intense handiwork that goes into the gorgeous gowns the women of the Oscars rock each year, I have to mention a few of my favorite dresses of the evening: Brie Larson's stunning black Oscar de la Renta number, Ruth Negga's red Valentino, Emma Stone's Givenchy Haute Couture, Taraji P. Henson's custom Alberta Ferretti and Laura Dern's Rodarte gown (to name a few).

Lest all the focus be on the women, I would be remiss if I didn't give shout-outs to Pharrell Williams' Chanel get-up, Ryan Gosling's Gucci look, Mahershala Ali's classic Ermengildo Zegna Couture design, Dev Patel's white Burberry number and Riz Ahmed's bright blue, dashing suit (also by Ermengildo Zegna Couture).

One thing you may not have noticed was the fashion as activism trend on this year's red carpet. Many of the evening's stars' dresses and tuxedos were adorned with blue ribbons in support of The American Civil Liberties Union to show solidarity with the group's efforts.

Those that partook included *Hamilton* and *Mojana* composer Lin Manuel Miranda and his mother, as well as *Loving* star Ruth Negga and supermodel Karlie Kloss. For many, this felt especially poignant in the wake of President Trump's election and the subsequent actions he has taken.

Now, stepping inside

the venue. Here's my take on Kimmel's multifarious hosting job. I can only imagine the intense pressure that comes with hosting the Oscars and feel awful for him that the Best Picture mix-up (the blame for which lies firmly on the shoulders of the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers) happened to occur during his stint as host.

Yet, on the whole, I felt like Kimmel's performance as a host lacked the usual class, wit and sensitivity to the delicate balance between what's funny and what's potentially racist or sexist that the Oscars requires. For example, having the crowd yell out "Mahershala" (the name of the *Moonlight* actor that had literally just been given the award for Best Supporting Actor, the first Muslim actor ever to win an Oscar) when they're surprising a bunch of tourists might come off as a little insensitive, especially if merely moments later you mock the name of an Asian member in the incoming group.

Also, holding up *Lion's* Sunny Powar, who speaks fairly little English, while *The Lion King* music plays is maybe just a bit strange. Also, why insert a Mean Tweets into the middle of the Oscars? It felt like the Oscars, which is meant to be glamorous and unique was simply devolving into *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* before our eyes, using up valuable time that could've been allocated to the speeches of the individuals that have worked their entire lives to make it up onto that stage.

Last but not least, Kimmel has been called out by numerous sources for stealing a joke from Tina Fey and Amy Poehler's 2014 Golden Globes about the weight-loss expected of women in Hollywood that male actors are praised for and jumping on board with Ellen's 2014 idea to provide the audience at the Oscars with food (in her case, pizza, in his, sweet-treats).

As far as the winners themselves go, my main qualm is that, given the sexual harassment suits Casey Affleck has settled out of court, he shouldn't have won Best Actor for *Manchester by the Sea*. If you discredit the ovation given by his brother Ben Affleck and their close friend Matt Damon, the majority of his peers in the Oscars audi-



SELMA ÜSÜK/CC-BY-2.0
Late night television personality Jimmy Kimmel hosted the Oscars.

ence seemed to know it too. You could see it in the way that Brie Larson coolly stepped back and let him have his moment without clapping or responding really at all. You could see it in the death glare that Denzel Washington gave Affleck when he was mentioned in his acceptance speech.

As many have commented, not only should Affleck not have won, he shouldn't have been nominated in the first place. Additionally, what kind of message does it send that Nate Parker's sexual assault charges (of which he was acquitted) led to his film *The Birth of a Nation* being completely cast aside by the Academy, yet the allegations surrounding Affleck had seemingly no impact? Maybe this is to be expected in an era where the fact that the President of the United States once said "Grab her by the pussy" was normalized as "locker room talk," but that didn't make it sit any better.

Now, last but by no means least, we have to address that incredibly awkward moment between *La La Land* and *Moonlight*. Warren Beatty looked confused from the moment he opened the envelope, and he passed it off to Faye Dunaway, who announced *La La Land* to be the winner of the Best Picture as though there was nothing strange about the fact that it said "Emma Stone for *La La Land*" on it at all. Of course, now, we know that this was the second copy of Stone's Best Actress card. This is when the Academy could've intervened much sooner.

While I understand that everyone involved was likely in a state of shock, they awkwardly

shuffled around in the background whilst three of *La La Land*'s producers read their acceptance speeches until Jordan Horowitz (one of the producers of *La La Land*) to take the mic back and announce *Moonlight* as the rightful winner.

The audience was stunned. The casts and crews of both *La La Land* and *Moonlight* were shocked. Kimmel was noticeably uncomfortable. Beatty took to the stage to clarify the source of the error (read: to ensure everyone that it wasn't that he and Dunaway were being racist or homophobic). And then, finally, *Moonlight* director Barry Jenkins and producer Adele Romanski were given the opportunity to make brief speeches.

While this year's Oscars was a triumph for diversity in the sense that *Moonlight*, a low-budget, independent film exploring the sexuality of a young African-American man over the course of three stages of his life, became the first LGBT+ film to win Best Picture, the unfortunate mishap inevitably tarnished the quality of this moment.

As Stephen Colbert put it on *Late Night With Stephen Colbert*, "It should've been a great moment for African Americans, but there's always a catch. 'Here's your Oscar, but some white folks get to touch it first.'"

This, when combined with the uncouth nature of many of Kimmel's jokes throughout the evening and Affleck's win, made this year's Oscars feel like a one step forwards, two steps backwards kind of situation.

Nina Gala, Andy Villanueva play at The LaB

WJHU, FROM B3
moment that sparked a flurry of photography and recording comparable to Lindsay Lohan leaving a club in the early 2010s. The peace of that weird faux-coffee shop was utterly shattered, but it was ever so worth it.

Even after Shi returned triumphantly to the audience, Andy stayed true to the '90s theme. His next song was another cover, and this time it was Weezer. Specifically, "Say It Ain't So," which is a tremendous song with an extremely underwhelming backstory. Villanueva then finished his set and left the stage to healthy applause, after which his one-time bandmate told the audience that WJHU planned on hosting more shows at the LaB.

That is good news. The

list of things to do on this campus during the week-end is as short as it is depressing.

You can either get drunk in your dorm room, apartment or house, get drunk in a dirty frat basement, get drunk at PJ's or watch Netflix. If WJHU really does plan on organizing more concerts, it should be at a venue that is within walking distance of every dorm, even Homewood, on and near campus. Finally, beleaguered Hopkins students can escape the public embarrassment of falling asleep drunk on a couch in a frat house—again (probably an over-share) and can walk to a nice, intimate show instead.

Based on Friday's concert, there is reason to be optimistic about the future. These were two really good acts, one of whom was a student.



COURTESY OF DUBRAY KINNEY
The LaB is the new performance/hangout space opened by Hopkins.

These concerts at the LaB could be a great way to expand the music culture on campus. Hopefully it can offer a place for student-musicians to express themselves and for local artists to grow their fan-base. While the LaB itself might be another one of the University's painful attempts to fake compassion for its undergraduates, it is a pretty

good venue to see some music.

Even if you do not know the artists, even if you do not necessarily like the genre of music, it would be worth checking out a concert at the LaB. You can only spend so much of your life listening to the top 10 most popular rap songs in the sweaty darkness of a party for so long.

Errata: Feb 23 Edition

In the Feb. 23, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, the article "Artist the HOP should go after for Spring Fair," the headline and article content itself mistakenly suggested that the Spring Fair entertainment was organized by the HOP when it's in fact organized by a separate Spring Fair committee.

The News-Letter regrets this error.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera

J



U

H

Job's

By Tony Street



Panels^2

By Erica Schwarz

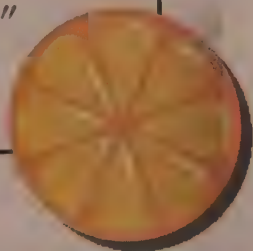


Do you have fridge-worthy art to submit?

The News-Letter thinks so.

Email

cartoons@jhunewsletter.com
to have your work put on *The News-Letter's* "Fridge"



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Earth-like planets found orbiting nearby star Rapp studies brain recovery after strokes



RISINGER/CC-BY-4.0
The seven planets orbiting TRAPPIST-1 have similar sizes and temperatures to Earth.

By **SABRINA CHEN**
Science & Technology Editor

A recent study published in the journal *Nature* reported that there are at least seven Earth-sized planets orbiting a star about 40 light years away. NASA and European astronomers found that these planets are all similar to Earth in that they are similarly sized and their climate is relatively temperate.

The star that the planets orbit is TRAPPIST-1. It is an ultra-cool dwarf star,

which means it has an effective temperature under 2700 K (2430 degrees Celsius or 4400 degrees Fahrenheit.) In May of 2016, researchers discovered three planets that orbit TRAPPIST-1. All seven planets are very close to one another. In fact, all of them orbit in a space that is smaller than one-fifth the distance from Mercury to the sun.

Astronauts were able to estimate the masses of the planets and found that they are most likely rocky

are in fact located in the habitable zone of the star. In fact, there could be water on the surfaces of these planets. “This is the first time that so many planets of this kind are found around the same star,” Michaël Gillon, lead study author and astronomer at the University of Liège in Belgium, said. Scientists studied the seven new planets utilizing a telescope called TRAPPIST (TRANSiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope). Furthermore, space-based telescopes like Spitzer have allowed the researchers to determine the orbital periods, distances from the star, radii and masses of the different planets.

The astronauts have labeled each of the planets from ‘a’ through ‘f’ and have discovered that the planet TRAPPIST-1f is the most likely to support life. TRAPPIST was used to view changes in bright-

ness as well as shadows. Furthermore, by observing starlight in the planet’s atmosphere, the researchers found that the stars had atmospheres similar to that of earth.

“I think we’ve made a crucial step towards finding if there is life out there,” Amaury Triaud, one of the study authors and an astronomer at the University of Cambridge, said. “I don’t think we have yet found the right planets to discover and find out if there is [life]. Here, if life managed to thrive and releases gases similar to what we have on Earth, we will know.”

In the future, researchers are looking towards determining the exact composition of the atmosphere of each of the planets and finding whether there is liquid water on the surface.

A distance of 40 light years (or 235 trillion miles) means it would take astronauts millions of years to reach the star system. However, researchers are hopeful that advanced technology will help them reach the planets faster.

“This discovery could be a significant piece in the puzzle of finding habitable environments, places that are conducive to life,” said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA’s Science Mission Directorate. “Answering the question ‘are we alone?’ is a top science priority, and finding so many planets like these for the first time in the habitable zone is a remarkable step toward that goal.”

By **ANNA CHEN**
For *The News-Letter*

Principal investigator Professor Brenda Rapp of the Cognitive Neuroscience Lab on Homewood Campus discussed, her lab’s research, which focuses on word production and comprehension. She described her personal background and her visions for the future of her work.

Rapp, originally from Madrid, Spain, began her scientific career at Hopkins in 1985 as a Ph.D. student in psychology. Rapp’s undergraduate education was at the University of Maryland, where she graduated with a Special Education degree. She had discovered her deep interest in helping children with learning and language disabilities unintentionally during the summer after her senior year of high school.

That summer, she happened to volunteer at the Study Center Foundation, a foundation dedicated to academic help and research for children with learning disabilities in Madrid.

Rapp realized that she loved working with these children, but she knew nothing about the underlying causes of their disabilities. She wanted to know what was really going on inside their heads because she felt that in order to help them improve their reading and spelling, she needed first to understand how these abilities

are organized and dictated by the human brain.

In search of these answers, she found herself applying to graduate school at Hopkins. She has worked here ever since, dedicating over thirty years to her research on written and spoken word production. Although Rapp has mainly worked with adults during her research career, she believes that understanding the adult system is essential to helping kids.

Funded by a multi-center grant from the National Institutes of Health, Rapp’s CogNeuro Lab currently collaborates with two other labs, one at Northwestern University and the other at Boston University, to study the brain, specifically its path to recovery after being damaged by strokes that create aphasia or language disorders.

Each lab does something a little different. The lab at Northwestern focuses on sentence comprehension while the lab at Boston strives to understand object perception and recognition. Professor Rapp and her team of researchers primarily investigate dysgraphia, or spelling problems.

Their research involves testing and scanning people who have had strokes that damaged parts of their brain commonly associated with language abilities. The subjects are then

SEE RAPP, PAGE B9

MRIs accurately predict if infants develop autism

By **ELAINE CHIAO**
Staff Writer

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) has long been hailed as a non-invasive medical technique that produces intricately detailed images of one’s brain and brainstem areas. In fact, the MRI is more effective at detecting abnormalities in the brainstem than many other scans, such as CT scans or X-rays. A study published in *Nature* reveals that MRIs can even be used to predict whether or not infants are likely to contract autism at an early age.

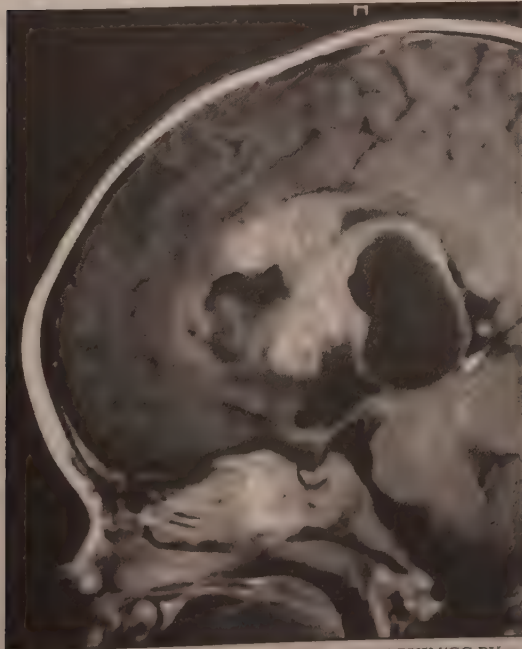
Dr. Joseph Piven, one of the leaders of the study, says that early biomarkers in brain development can often be used to identify infants who have a high risk for autism even before actual symptoms begin to emerge. Piven is currently the Thomas E. Castelloe distinguished professor of psychiatry at the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill. “Typically, the earliest an autism diagnosis can be made is between ages two and three. But for babies with older autistic siblings, our imaging approach may help predict during the first year of life which babies are most likely to receive an autism diagnosis at 24 months,” Piven said, in a press release.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has become an increasingly common phenomenon in America. In fact, it is estimated that one out of every 68 American children is diagnosed with ASD every year. There might also be a genetic component that adds to the risk of developing ASD, since children with older siblings that have ASD are more likely to also carry the same conditions.

Prior to two years of age, it is extremely difficult for physicians to precisely identify the infants that are at high risk

SEE MRI, PAGE B9



MARVIN/CC-BY-3.0
An MRI is a noninvasive method for imaging brain development.

Vitamin D protects against common cold and flu

By **ISAAC CHEN**
For *The News-Letter*

A group of researchers at the Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) showed through a meta-analysis that Vitamin D protects against acute respiratory tract infections (ARIs). Those who are lacking Vitamin D and those not receiving bolus doses, a quantity of fluid or medication given intravenously at a controlled, rapid rate, benefit the most.

ARIs are a major cause for global mortality. They were responsible for an estimated 2.65 million deaths in 2013, according to the Global Burden of Disease (GBD), and 10 percent of ambulatory and emergency visits in the USA, according to a study conducted by Carlos Grijalva of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

ARIs are divided into two subcategories: upper respiratory tract infections (URIs) and lower respiratory tract infections (LRIs). The upper part of the respiratory tract starts from the airways of the nostrils to the vocals cords in the larynx. Common infections include rhinitis (the common cold) and the flu.

The lower part of the respiratory tract continues from the trachea and bronchi and ends at the bronchioles and the alveoli. Typical forms of infections consist of pneu-

monia and bronchitis.

This meta-analysis study evaluated data for 10,933 participants in 25 randomized controlled experiments done in 14 different countries, including the U.S., Japan, New Zealand and Sweden.

“This major collaborative research effort has yielded the first definitive evidence that Vitamin D really does protect against respiratory infections,” Professor Adrian Martineau of QMUL, the leading researcher in this study, said in a press release. “Our analysis of pooled raw data from each of the 10,933 trial participants allowed us to address the thorny question of why Vitamin D ‘worked’ in some trials, but not in others.”

Vitamin D, the sunshine vitamin, is known to increase antimicrobial peptides in the lungs to combat invading viruses and bacteria. According to Martineau, Vitamin D is also known to induce cell self-degradation and the synthesis of reactive nitrogen and oxygen in-



PIXA/CC-BY-2.0
Vitamin D, known as the sunshine vitamin, increases antimicrobial peptides in lungs.

termediates.

Several observational studies have indicated a relationship between ARIs and Vitamin D, yet of the other five meta-analyses to date, only two studies report that Vitamin D supplements have significant effect in decreasing the risk for ARIs.

Martineau and his team suggested the cause of conflicting results is due to various Vitamin D levels and use of bolus doses. Those who had the lowest Vitamin D levels benefited the most whereas those with higher levels benefited less.

They proposed that the reason why the bolus doses were ineffective against ARIs is because of the wide fluctuations in the 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration. 25-hydroxyvitamin D is the

major circulating Vitamin D metabolite, a compound that is formed from Vitamin D metabolism.

The results of this study provide evidence that could aid the introduction of public health policies.

“By demonstrating this new benefit of Vitamin D, our study strengthens the case for introducing food fortification to improve Vitamin D levels in countries such as the UK where profound Vitamin D deficiency is common,” Martineau said.

In addition, the results could potentially explain the observation that the cold and flu are the most common during the winter due to fewer hours of sunshine. Vitamin D could also be potentially helpful against asthma attacks, which are caused by respiratory viruses.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New diet reduces risk of age-related diseases



FORTUNET/CC-BY-1.0
Participants ate an extremely low calorie diet and saw large-scale health improvements.

By **SHERRY SIMKOVIC**
Staff Writer

Biologists at the Longevity Institute of the University of Southern California (USC) Leonard Davis School of Gerontology recently discovered a new diet that reduces the risk of age-related diseases.

47 million Americans suffer from metabolic syndrome, another name for five conditions that raise your risk for heart disease, diabetes and stroke. The five conditions are abdominal obesity (a large apple-shaped waistline), a high triglyceride level, high blood pressure, low levels of HDL cholesterol and high fasting blood sugar.

The National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute predicts that metabolic syndrome may replace smoking as the future leading risk for heart disease. Many adults attempt to mitigate the effects of metabolic syndrome by consuming no food and only drinking water for days at a time.

Although they may lose weight using this method, fasting leads to lower levels of circulating glucose, causing the

body to start producing insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1), which has been linked to cancer.

The scientists developed a low calorie fast-mimicking diet (FMD) that provided enough calories and nutrients to subjects to avoid producing IGF-1 while still suppressing the effects of metabolic syndrome. In a previous study the group showed that the diet was safe and feasible to consume for five days each month over a three-month period.

In the most recent study 100 subjects took part in a randomized trial. 71 participants ate the newly designed FMD for a five-day period each month for three months. 39 of the participants began eating the FMD and the team added 32 of the participants after they had eaten a control diet. The team then evaluated the effects of the FMD on risk factors and markers for aging, cancer and metabolic syndrome in healthy subjects who ranged between 20 and 70 years old.

Between April 2013 and July 2015 all 100 participants were assigned to two groups. 48 participants were in arm one and 52 were in arm two. The participants in con-

trol arm one continued their normal diet for three months, whereas participants in arm two started the FMD intervention.

While eating the FMD, the participants most commonly complained of fatigue, weakness and headaches. After three cycles of the FMD, the participants reported only mild or very moderate side effects.

Overall the team found that the subjects on the FMD lost an average of about six pounds. Their waistlines shrank by one to two inches and their systolic blood pressure, which was in the normal range when the study began, dropped by 4.5 mmHG, while their diastolic blood pressure dropped by 3.1 mmHG. Their levels of IGF-1 also dropped significantly, reaching a range associated with lower cancer risk.

"After the first group completed their three months on the fasting diet, we moved over participants in the control group to see if they also would experience similar results," Valter Longo, director of the USC Longevity Institute and a professor of biological sciences at USC Dana and David Dornsife College, said.

"We saw similar outcomes, which provides further evidence that a fasting-mimicking diet has effects on many metabolic and disease markers. Our mouse studies using a similar fasting-mimicking diet indicate

that these beneficial effects are caused by multi-system regeneration and rejuvenation in the body at the cellular and organ levels," Longo said.

He added that the subjects retained the benefits after the trial period.

"Our participants retained those effects, even when they returned to their normal daily eating habits," he said.

The team noticed that subjects who were considered "at risk" at the beginning of the trial, because they had one of the five conditions, made large improvements to healthier living over the course of the trial.

"Fasting seems to be the most beneficial for patients who have the great risk factors for disease, such as those who have high blood pressure or pre-diabetes or who are obese," Longo said.

Three months after the trial ended, the researchers invited the participants back and found that they continued to benefit from the diet even after they stopped eating it. To confirm the effects of the FMD on a large scale, the researchers want to conduct a large FDA phase-III clinical trial to discern the long term benefits of the diet.

"This study provides evidence that people can experience significant health benefits through a periodic, fasting-mimicking diet that is designed to act on the aging process," Longo said. "Prior studies have indicated a range of health benefits in mice, but this is the first randomized clinical trial with enough participants to demonstrate that the diet is feasible, effective and safe for humans."

"Larger FDA studies are necessary to confirm its effects on disease prevention and treatment," he said.

Spider silk inspires synthetic fiber design



LUCARELLI/CC-BY-3.0
The recluse spider uses loops to increase the strength of its silk.

By **WILLIAM XIE**
Staff Writer

A team of researchers at the University of Oxford recently discovered the *Loxosceles* genus, commonly known as the recluse spider. The species has unusually tough silk produced by a unique spinning mechanism. In the journal *Materials Horizons*, the research team, also consisting of members from the Applied Math Department from the College of William & Mary in Virginia, published their observations of the recluse spider and its silk's properties.

The team used a high speed video recording device to capture the natural spinning behavior of the spider. They found that the spider spun at rates of 10-15 loops per second, creating 50 nanometer wide silk.

The structure of the ribbon silk spun was that of a looped metastructure that enhances toughness. When the researchers watched the video recordings, they discovered the recluse spider uses a complex spinning process that forms serial loops with self-adhesive junctions.

The spiders were kept in individual cylindrical housings and randomly selected for silk sampling. The silk strands from eight spiders were tested. Three looped and three non-looped strands were used.

Tensile testing led the researchers to conclude that the recluse spider's silk overcame limitations of previously reported looped fibers. They created a mathematical model of a looped ribbon structure to describe the strength of the loops.

Increasing the number of loops enhanced the silk's strength. For the recluse spider's silk, the specific toughness was predicted to be able to increase up to 1000 percent if the looping of the silk did not weaken the fiber strength.

However the team realized through optical microscopy that not all loops opened and thus the effective specific toughness of looped strands decreased. The team found that there can be an average of 21 percent improvement in the silk if the weight of the unopened loops was neglected. The team attributed unopened loops

to the imperfections in their sample preparation or testing parameters.

"The theory of knots adding strength is well proven. But adding loops to synthetic filaments always seemed to lead to premature fiber failure," Hannes Schniepp, professor at the College of William & Mary, said in a press release.

Previous research of synthetic looped fibers displayed a decrease in strength resulting from cusps and defects formed through the unraveling of the fibers.

Following the silk's tensile testing, the scientists fabricated their own looped strands modeled after the flexible recluse spider silk. They chose to use strapping tape as their material because of its elasticity, ribbon morphology and high resistance to torsion tearing. The team observed no significant decrease in strength. The addition of a loop significantly increased the toughness by 30 percent, eight percent greater than their elasticity model predicted.

The sacrificial bonds and hidden length mechanism is the key natural attribute contributing to the silk's toughness. Also found in bones, sacrificial bonds are able to break and reform, effectively dissipating energy.

The recluse spider's ribbon-like silk is especially functional due to its ribbon morphology, which retains the silk's strength by avoiding any cusps or other stress concentration during extension. It also manages sacrificial bonding at the ribbon contact areas ensuring energy dissipation.

The paper concluded that the recluse spider's unique spinning process and looped ribbon may help to inspire the design of synthetic materials with adjustable tensile attributes.

"Computer simulations demonstrate that fibers with many loops would be much, much tougher than those without loops," Fritz Vollrath, an academic research leader at Oxford, said in a press release. "This right away suggests possible applications. For example, carbon filaments could be looped to make them less brittle and thus allow their use in novel impact absorbing structures."

Saturated fats lead to liver metabolism changes

By **RAYYAN JOKHAI**
Staff Writer

The documented increase in the number of people worldwide suffering from obesity and Type 2 diabetes is often linked with an unhealthy overconsumption of saturated fats. Researchers from the German Diabetes Center (Deutsches Diabetes-Zentrum, DDZ) and the Helmholtz Center in Munich (HMGU) have discovered that even a one-time consumption of increased amounts of palm oil can have long-lasting effects on human bodies.

Saturated fats can reduce the body's insulin response, increase fat deposits around the body and alter the metabolism around the liver. Overall the study has shown that early, minor changes in the liver's metabolism after consumption of saturated fats are what eventually lead to fatty liver disease in overweight individuals and those with Type 2 diabetes.

The findings were published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* by the researchers from the DDZ and HMGU. The experiment conducted gave a random flavored palm oil drink or a clear glass of water to a healthy, slim male. In this control experiment the palm oil drink had the amount of saturated fat equivalent to a meal of two cheeseburgers with bacon

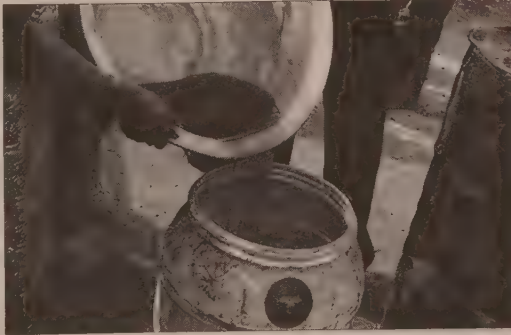
and a large order of French fries or two salami pizzas.

After comparing the experimental group with the control group, the researchers showed that the single event of overconsumption of saturated fats, even in healthy males, had immediate detrimental effects.

The scientists reported that reduced insulin activity and an increase of fat deposits on the liver were observed. Furthermore the balance in energy of the liver during metabolic action was altered from its normal state.

These metabolic changes resembled those in people suffering from type two diabetes or non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). NAFLD is the most prevalent liver disease in developed countries and is often related to obesity. The altered metabolic changes that are associated with it are entitled "metabolic syndrome" and are related to an increased risk of getting type two diabetes. Eventually NAFLD can lead to severe, irreversible liver damage.

"The surprise was that a single dosage of palm oil has such a rapid and direct impact on the liver of a healthy person and that the amount of fat administered already triggered insulin resistance," Professor Michael Roden, managing director and chairman at the German Center for Diabetes Research, said



ONEVILLAGE/CC-BY-3.0
A one-time consumption of palm oil can have long-lasting effects.

in a press release. "A special feature of our study is that we monitored the liver metabolism of people with a predominantly non-invasive technology, e.g. by magnetic resonance spectroscopy. This allows us to track the storage of sugar and fat as well as the energy metabolism of the mitochondria (power plants of the cell)."

In using this type of technology, the researchers were able to confirm that the one-time increased intake of palm oil (saturated fats) detrimentally affected the metabolic activity of muscles, liver and fatty tissue.

The induced insulin resistance led to an up-regulation of sugar synthesis in the liver, but a corresponding decrease of sugar absorption in the skeletal muscles. This is a toxic combination and is the cause of increased sugar levels in those suffering from type two diabetes.

The non-invasive technology allowed the scientists to see that the insulin resistance of fatty tissue triggered an increased release of fats into the bloodstream. This in turn further inhibited insulin activity causing a vicious cycle. With increased amounts of fats in the bloodstream, the mitochondria of the cell is overworked, leaving the body susceptible to liver disease.

The results of the study show the downward cycle that eating a meal high in saturated fats just once can have. Roden and his team, however, believe that most healthy people are able to manage these immediate, negative impacts that unhealthy foods have. The greater risk rests on those who are constantly eating unhealthy meals that are high in saturated fats, since the short-term effects can build upon one another and ultimately cause major, long-term health issues.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The reproducibility crisis in neuroscience



Duy Phan
The Brain Wave

A major characteristic of good science is that it is reproducible. This means that the same data can be obtained over and over again by independent efforts. Data that cannot be replicated are thought to be the result of careless science, or more insidiously, fraud and fabrication.

Most of the time, there is not much of a push to validate data. In fact, the majority of scientific work escapes the test of reproduction, since scientific journals are focused on novelty rather than replication. Works that simply try to reproduce the data without adding new insight are difficult to publish.

Several recent high-profile cases have brought to attention the issue of reproducible science. One famous example is that of the Stimulus-Triggered Acquisition of Pluripotency (STAP) stem cell research, in which a Japanese scientist claimed to have been able to turn any mature cell in the body back into a stem cell simply by dipping the mature cell in acid. The STAP stem cell swept the scientific world like a storm, bringing promise of new paradigms for stem cell research and perhaps even stem-cell based treatments for diseases.

However, the STAP stem cell story was ultimately deemed to be fake data when multiple attempts failed to reproduce the seemingly simple method. Formal investigations into the research concluded that much of the data had been fabricated by Haruko Obokata, the principal scientist involved.

Beyond the highly publicized case of the STAP stem cell, other data suggest that reproducibility might actually be an epidemic across all of science. Amgen, a biotechnology company, claimed that it failed to replicate the results of 47 out of 53 "landmark" cancer studies.

Another project was also initiated by a former geneticist to validate 29 famous cancer studies published in prestigious journals such as *Nature*, *Science* and *Cell*. Out of five published studies that the project tried to validate, so far only two were considered substantially reproduced.

When we are confronted with such failed replication attempts, it is crucial to ask why some of these studies can't be replicated.

Although an obvious and cynical answer to this question is fraud and fabrication of data, we need to remember that science is extremely difficult and complex. Many of the landmark studies required extensive and technically challenging experiments that can be very difficult for others to replicate.

Observing a significant effect might therefore require a set of experienced hands rather than a newbie who has never attempted the experiment before. It is possible that failure to reproduce an effect may have come from the lack of experience of the individuals who are trying to replicate the data in doing the challenging experiments.

Therefore one way to address the reproducibility crisis is to advocate for the simplest experiments possible that can still provide evidence for a hypothesis. Although the surge of new cutting-edge neuroscience tools has made it possible to address questions that were previously not testable due to lack of technologies, an over-reliance on overly complicated methods and techniques can make it very difficult to reproduce data.

Bringing up the Brainwave's Golden Rule for science, the truth is simple, and therefore it is not always necessary to use complicated experiments.

Another crucial point about claims of failing to replicate data is that the previously mentioned examples represent only one attempt at replicating the data. Science can be random, and replications are required to wash out the inherent stochasticity. Before we point fingers and place blame on people, it is necessary to see multiple attempts to replicate the data first.

Some journals are trying to encourage such repeated attempts to replicate the data. For example, *eNeuro* now allows for publications of articles that show failure to replicate previously published data. By having a publication pipeline for such replication studies, journals can play a role in encouraging multiple labs to try to rigorously challenge scientific results.

Rapp studies disabilities in stroke patients

RAPP PAGE B7

trained so that they can gradually overcome as much of their acquired language disorder as possible. After scanning them again, scientists can compare the test results from before and after the training to see what changes in the brain seem to be responsible for the subject's improvement in spelling.

Rapp explains that one of her most rewarding moments was recently publishing a paper in the journal *Brain*, in which her lab identified specific parts of the brain that are associated with different components of the spelling process. Previously scientists spoke of the spelling process as a whole, without realizing that many different areas of the brain control separate aspects of an individual's ability to spell.

The multifarious nature of the spelling process, however, is part of what makes the project Rapp is working on so challenging. Each subject's stroke affects different areas of the brain, and therefore different aspects of their spelling ability are impaired.

Because of this, Rapp has had to accumulate data from countless

stroke cases, studying how information about the cognitive and neural bases of spelling disorders from one subject overlapped with observations and conclusions drawn from a different subject.

Armed with this knowledge, Rapp and her research team can examine which brain areas are most essential in the recovery of spelling abilities for stroke patients.

Does the area vary between individuals? Does it depend on the area of the lesion caused by the stroke? How can we use targeted pharmaceutical or electrical stimulation techniques to treat these specific areas and induce faster and more effective recovery?

These are all relevant questions that Rapp and her lab aim to answer.

Rapp's ultimate goal is simply to make people's recovery more effective.

"I hope to come closer to using what we learn to have a clear impact of how rehabilitation and treatment are prescribed," she said.

One day she wants the data her project has generated to allow stroke patients to receive a more personalized approach to recovery.

She hopes to provide



COURTESY OF BRENDA RAPP
Rapp's ultimate goal is to improve the recovery of stroke patients.

them with a better prognosis so they can plan their lives in the best way possible around the often devastating effects of strokes.

Rapp admits that the scientific aspects of her achievements are exciting, and bringing together decades of research results is personally fulfilling, however, she attributes much of the reward in her research to the study volunteers.

She thinks that they may be able to improve not only their own strug-

gles with language disabilities, but also someone else's.

"Every successful project is a little success for the patient," she said. "It is gratifying for those people to know that their volunteered time was worth it."

Rapp has recently begun including children into her research, coming full circle with her early goal of working with and helping kids, the very same goal that has been motivating her for the past 30 years.

MRIs may be used to detect biomarkers for autism

MRI PAGE B7

of developing autism. After this age threshold, however, it is much easier and much more efficient to identify those that demonstrate characteristic tendencies for ASD.

Piven and the rest of his research team took very specific procedures to carry out the research process. They performed MRI scans on infants gathered from three different age groups: six months, 12 months and 24 months. It turned out that infants with autistic symptoms commonly experience brain overgrowth during the first two years of their lives. This increased, al-

most abnormal growth rate in the brain causes many children to have social deficits, although researchers cannot proficiently explain how the two variables do not have a causal, direct relationship.

This research pioneered by Piven's team is actually a project that was started at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) at the University of North Carolina. The project is in collaboration with other clinical research institutions such as the University of Washington, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Minnesota, the College of Charleston,

New York University and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The project even collaborates with a few universities in Canada, such as McGill University and the University of Alberta.

It is widely accepted that social behaviors with autistic trends tend to emerge during the second year of a child's life. Researchers investigated various data including age, gender, brain volume and surface area before reaching the conclusion that there is a specific criteria crucial to pinpointing which group of children might be more prone to developing autism by the time they reach two years-old.

This computerized set of criteria is especially useful to parents who have already given birth to a child with autism. If the couple has a second child, they can use such a method to predict whether their second child will also have autism. It turns out that the test gives valid results 80 percent of the time.

"We haven't had a way to detect the biomarkers of autism before the condition sets in and symptoms develop," Piven said in the press release.

However the researchers are now embarking on a renewed mission to make such speculation a highly possible reality.

Researchers print solar cells on cheaper non-silicon material

By AVERY GUILINO
For The News-Letter

Cheap, clean energy with a tax break tossed in — solar energy definitely sounds appealing, so why do only approximately one percent of homes in America have solar panels? While solar energy may be cheaper once you have it, especially if you live in a sunny area, the installation process itself is grossly expensive.

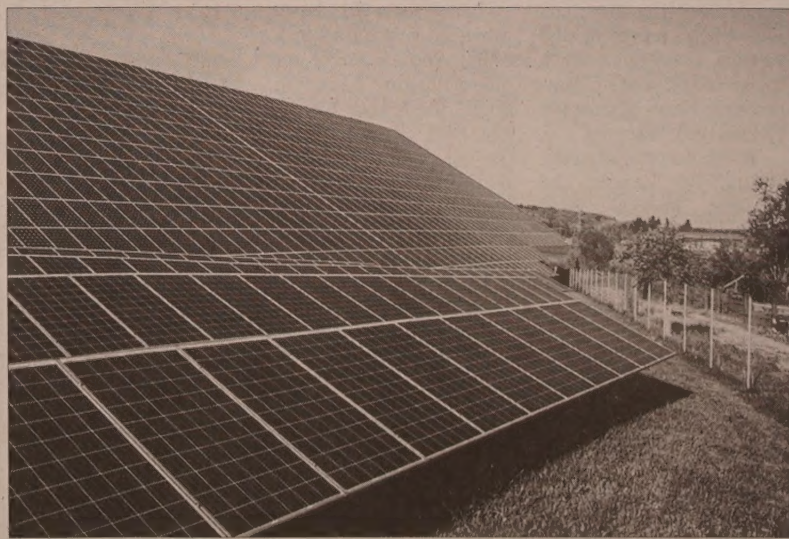
Not only are solar panels themselves expensive, but solar companies often overcharge for them. Germany, for example, uses more than four times the amount of solar power that the U.S. does, so in turn, solar companies spend 10 times less on marketing and less on installation, according to the European Photovoltaic Industry Association. But cost may no longer be an issue for the United States or for the rest of the world.

At the University of Toronto, researchers have figured out how to actually print solar cells onto glass, plastic or similar materials. These new so-

lar cells are known as perovskite solar cells and can be made from a substance they call "solar ink." They can become an ink because the new solar cells are made from a multitude of minute crystals so small that 1,000 of them could fit in the width of a single hair. Perovskite solar cells have been around for some time now, but they have been faulty and not able to produce energy for more than a few hours.

What is revolutionary about this solar ink, however, is its new ESL, or electron selective layer. This layer essentially allows electrons to be used for energy and can now be chemically grown on cheaper surfaces. This is the key breakthrough for Hairen Tan, the lead researcher.

Before the development, solar cells had to be made with incredibly thin plates of crystalline silicon, which required immense amounts of energy and therefore immense amounts of money to be produced. But this so-called 'solar ink' is made of low cost, light sensi-



BEARDS/CC-BY-SA-3.0
Instead of thin plates of silicon, which can be expensive, "solar ink" can be used to print panels.

tive materials that can be cheaply printed onto glass or plastic, just like printing a picture onto paper with an inkjet printer. The previous solar panels also required temperatures greater than 1000 degrees Celsius, but the new solar panels must in fact stay below 150 degrees Celsius, again a much cheaper process.

These new solar cells are also reliable, which

was not a feature of the perovskite cells before this new ESL reaction was developed. These new cells, per Tan's study, "retained more than 90 percent of their efficiency even after 500 hours of use."

With more work to combine these new cells with silicon to create a hybrid, this material may likely cover our phone cases, windows, roofs and much more. The use of so-

lar panels is slowly growing in places like France, where the French Ministry of the Environment has recently opened the first solar paneled road as part of its initiative to move towards green energy. But many areas of the world are still having trouble transitioning, and this new technology may help move countries like the United States towards greener energy.

SPORTS

NBA teams strike deals at the deadline

By JAMES AIOSA
For The News-Letter

At 3 p.m. last Thursday, the NBA trade deadline finally hit, but not before several major League-altering moves were underway.

Without question, the most noteworthy of all the deadline transactions sent DeMarcus Cousins, the former Sacramento Kings All-Star, to the New Orleans Pelicans to team up with Anthony Davis.

Many questioned the return the Kings would receive on the young but often hard-headed Cousins, who leads the NBA with 17 technical fouls this season. The deal featured rookie guard Buddy Hield, shooting guard Tyreke Evans, point guard Langston Galloway and first and second round picks in the 2017 NBA draft.

With this move, the Kings have committed to cultivating a healthier team culture and will now hope for a favorable lottery slot in the talent-heavy 2017 draft pool.

The New Orleans Pelicans, on the other hand, have cemented a core that now features arguably the two most dominant big men in the League. While they are currently two spots out of the eighth and final playoff slot, they will likely contend for the spot with the Portland Trail Blazers for the remainder of the season.

In addition to the Pelicans, the Toronto Raptors also made a serious commitment to competing in the here-and-now. In two separate deals, the Raptors acquired veteran power forward Serge Ibaka and gritty perimeter defender P.J. Tucker.

They relinquished shooting guard Terrence Ross and a 2017 first-round pick to the Orlando Magic for Ibaka. In return for Tucker, the Raptors sent the Phoenix Suns center Jared Sullinger and 2017 and 2018 second-round picks along with cash considerations.

The Raptors will look to dethrone the Cleveland Cavaliers as the preeminent Eastern Conference favorites for the 2017 NBA Finals. Nonetheless, while these trades bolster an already strong roster, LeBron James and the Cavaliers will likely represent the Eastern Conference in a repeat of last year's Championship Finals against the Golden State Warriors.

To the surprise of many around the League, the Houston Rockets were chosen by the Los Angeles Lakers as the most desirable trade partner for guard Lou Williams, a gifted scorer.

In return for Lou Williams, the former Sixth Man of the Year, the Rockets sent forward Corey Brewer and their 2017 first-round pick in a mutually beneficial transaction for two teams heading in polar opposite directions.

With this move, the Rockets make a case for the best bench in the NBA, adding to shooting guard Eric Gordon with an equally potent scorer in Lou Williams. Point guard James Harden and his newly upgraded supporting cast are still undermanned against the star-studded Warriors. Still, the Warriors will certainly hope to avoid the second-most efficient offense in the Rockets come playoff time.

On the other hand,

the Lakers only get considerably worse with this move. However, they improve their prospects for an already bright future by guaranteeing themselves a pick in the first round of this year's draft, which is a necessity for rebuilding the team.

The loss of Williams, coupled with the inevitability of losing more games during the remainder of the season, will only improve the Lakers' chances to keep their own first-round pick, which they retain only if it falls in one of the top-three slots in this year's draft lottery. If it falls outside of the top-three, the Lakers will send their pick to the Philadelphia 76ers to fulfill the trade deal that brought Steve Nash to the Lakers in 2012.

The Lakers further contributed to the youth movement this trade deadline in a separate deal with the Rockets, sending veteran guard Marcelo Huertas to Houston in exchange for 22-year-old Tyler Ennis.

Manager Sam Presti and his Oklahoma City Thunder were able to accrue some much needed help for Russell Westbrook, who has had a record-shattering year.

In a deal with the Chicago Bulls, the Thunder took forward Taj Gibson and forward Doug McDermott in exchange for point guard Cameron Payne, shooting guard Anthony Morrow and center Joffrey Lauvergne.

The Washington Wizards also acquired some help for their star guard John Wall, who led the Wizards to an impressive 12-4 record in the lead up to the All-Star break. The sharp-shooting wing Bojan Bogdanović and Chris McCullough were sent to the Wizards in exchange for Brooklyn Nets forward Andrew Nicholson, forward Marcus Thornton and a top-14 protected 2017 first-round draft-pick.

Bogdanović will provide a much-needed bench presence to a severely lacking reserve force in the Wizards led by Trey Burke and Kelly Oubre Jr.

Perhaps the most alarming move was the trade that sent the 76ers' rising star center Nerlens Noel to the Dallas Mavericks in exchange for a 2018 top-18 protected first-round pick, center Andrew Bogut and guard Justin Anderson. Bogut, the former Warrior and NBA champion, is at the tail end of his injury-riddled career. Meanwhile, Justin Anderson, in his second season in the NBA, is averaging 6.5 points per game, at a 40 percent field goal percentage.

The Dallas Mavericks, one of the several rebuilding teams in the NBA, will likely hold onto their first-round pick, considering they would otherwise have to crack the NBA's top-12, which is notably improbable.

The 76ers reportedly had trouble drawing up interest in the rim-protecting third-year big man. This was largely due to Nerlens Noel's contract, which has him slated to hit the market as a restricted free agent this summer in a climate that will likely yield a max offer sheet that the Mavericks will have to match if they want to keep him.

With a number of moves made in the days leading to the deadline, NBA fans can now gear up for an exciting finish to the season.

Track teams extend Conference win streaks

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

After two days of fierce competition, both the men's and the women's track and field teams ran away with the Centennial Conference title last weekend. While the men would easily capture their fifth straight indoor Conference Championship, more than 80 points ahead of the runner-ups, the women squeaked by the Dickinson College Red Devils for their seventh straight Conference title.

The first day of competition was a breeze for the women, capturing titles in the 5,000-meter, the distance medley and the pentathlon to finish the day with a total of 70 team points.

Sophomore Felicia Koerner took the individual title in the 5K, nearly 40 seconds ahead of Dickinson's second place finisher. Crossing the line in 17:06, Koerner broke the previous Centennial Conference meet record set in 2009 by more than 10 seconds.

Koerner was followed by her teammates, freshman Lauren Jacob and sophomore Natalia Laspad, who crossed the line in third and fourth, respectively. The Blue Jays earned a total of 24 points in the 5K race, placing six runners in the top 10.

The women's distance medley also managed to capture the crown over the Haverford Fords. Junior Caroline Smith, sophomore Erin Brush, sophomore Hannah Miller and senior Tess Meehan crossed the line just two seconds ahead of the Fords to take the title in the event.

The Jays added another name to their first place finishes during the first day of competition, as sophomore Maya Hammonds earned the pentathlon title with 2902 points. Hammonds was accompanied by junior Kelsey Harper, who finished in second with 2853 points.

While the women finished the first day of competition with a solid lead, the men ended the day with just 20 team points to put them in second, seven points behind the Haverford College Fords.

On the track, the men took the title in the distance medley relay. The team of sophomore Scott Pourshalchi, senior Jesse Poore, freshman Brett Wolfinger and senior Tom Pavarini clocked a season best time of 10:06 in the event.

As the heptathlon competition got underway, three Blue Jays made promising first impressions on day one of the competition. Of the four events that took place Saturday, a Blue Jay topped the field in each one.

Senior Andrew Barnett topped the field in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.28, followed closely by his teammate, sophomore Grant Mosser. Mosser took first place in the high jump, recording a height of 1.87 meters for a personal record.

Barnett led the field again in the long jump, picking up more than 700 points. He was followed again by his teammate Mosser.

The last event of the day would be topped by another Jay, as junior Matt Fischetti led the field in the shot put. Fischetti posted a personal best in the event, throwing 11.72 meters. He was followed by his teammate, Barnett, who took second in the event with a personal best throw of 11.67 meters.

After a long first day of competition, the Jays headed back to Collegeville, Pa. early the next morning to claim their spots atop the Conference. Ending Saturday with 70-point total, the women were primed to take home the crown.

Koerner had another excellent day on the track, leading the Jays in the mile. She took second place with a personal best time of 4:57, followed by senior Shannon Martello, who took third place, clocking a time of 5:05. The Blue Jays would have six women finish in



HOPKINSPORTS.COM

The Hopkins women's track team dominated the Conference Championships last weekend.

the top 10.

Nevertheless, Koerner was not finished. She went on to add another individual victory, finishing first with a time of 9:58 in the 3,000-meter run. Subsequently, Koerner was named the USTFCCA NCAA D-III Women's Athlete of the Week; She holds the top 3,000 and 5,000-meter times in D-III and the sixth fastest mile time this season.

Of the three relays on Sunday, the Blue Jays claimed victory in two. In the 4x400-meter, Miller, junior Lauren Roberts, senior Amy Garcia and senior Lindsay Cheu led the field. Meanwhile, Martello, freshman Caelyn Reilly, Brush and Smith took the title in the 4x800-meter relay.

The women managed to edge out the Dickinson Red Devils 180-162 to take their seventh straight Centennial Conference Championship.

However, while the women were out in front to start the second day of competition, the men trailed behind the frontrunners by seven points going into day two. This was an especially uneasy position to be in after the previous indoor season when the Jays did not secure the Championship crown until the very last event of the day.

"We try to make sure everyone knows what's at stake and that we can never let up," Pavarini said. "We knew if everyone did their best and gave it 100 percent, we could come out with the win."

This time, the Jays would not leave that kind of pressure to the end. They quickly jumped back into competition on Sun-

day, proving their depth by taking first place finishes in six different events.

Mosser was the only individual to take two titles for the Jays, claiming the victory in both the 60-meter hurdles and the Heptathlon. Mosser became the Jays' first 60-meter hurdles champion and went on to set the meet record in the heptathlon with 4,710 points.

Meanwhile, Barnett claimed his fourth Centennial Conference title in the pole vault, jumping nearly a foot higher than the second place finisher. On the track, sophomore Alex Mollick took the title in the 200-meter dash, followed by senior Jesse Poore, who took second for the Jays.

In the mile, the Jays had three men finishing in the top 10 to tally nine team points in the event. Hopkins was led by Pavarini, who crossed the line in fourth, clocking a time of 4:18. Pavarini was trailed closely by his sophomore teammates Scott Pourshalchi and Kevin Peters, who finished in sixth and seventh, respectively.

Overall, the men dominated the field, claiming their fifth straight Centennial Conference Championship 193.5-112 over second-place Haverford. The 81.5-point margin of victory is the largest in the Centennial Championships since 2005.

"Obviously it feels good afterwards to be able to win by a good amount," Pavarini said. "But that is more a testament to the hard work and competitive spirit of our team than anything else."

W. Lacrosse falls to Quakers in battle at home



HOPKINSPORTS.COM

Junior attack Emily Kenul was one of three Blue Jays to score against the Quakers.

W. LAX, FROM B12

Sophomore attack Miranda Ibello would end the Quakers scoring streak, converting on a free position opportunity to cut UPenn's lead in half with 14:20 left to play in the half.

Nevertheless, this break for the Jays was short lived, and again, Condon would add to the Quakers' lead with two additional tallies to give UPenn a 5-2 lead, with just over eight minutes left in the half.

Schweizer would come back with her second goal of the day to

cut the lead to two with just five seconds left in the clock. The score remained 5-3 as both teams went into the locker room.

In the second half, just over two minutes in, the Blue Jays would again be the first team on the board. Junior attack Emily Kenul capitalized on a rebound opportunity stemming from Schweizer's free position attempt. Schweizer would then tie the game at five with her third goal of the game just over a minute later.

Schweizer was not

finished. The senior scored the game's next two goals, her fourth and fifth of the game, giving Hopkins a 7-5 lead with 22:09 left to play.

Schweizer's five goals accounted for a majority of the Blue Jay offense, but she credited her performance to her teammates.

"Personally, I do not think anything clicked for me, aside from my teammates cutting and moving well to open up lanes for me to dodge," Schweizer said. "The goalie was a big presence in the cage, so placement on shots and moving her by shooting high to low was also valuable."

But the Jays lead was short-lived. From then on out it was all Quakers, as they closed the game on

a 5-0 run that sealed the 10-7 win. Three of Penn's goals came courtesy of Condon, giving her eight on the game.

"The draw dictated the momentum of the game," Ibello said. "Unfortunately, they won more than we did. We had a lot of great opportunities in the offense, but we were not finishing them."

Looking down the road to the postseason, the Blue Jays remain optimistic. Schweizer relayed the team's sentiment moving forward.

"We have done a great job of staying united and supporting each other, regardless of the game's outcome. In my four years here, this is by far the most selfless team we have had," Schweizer said. "No one cares who scores or gets the credit, we have so much depth. Continuing to work the chemistry on offense and push each other in practice will help us to get where we want to be in the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments."

SPORTS

MLB American League
2017 season preview



KEITH ALLISON/CC BY-SA 2.0
Without Big Papi, the Red Sox offense will rely on Mookie Betts.

By GREGORY MELICK
Staff Writer

After four days of spring training games, there are only two undefeated teams remaining: The Los Angeles Angels and the Cleveland Indians. Does this mean these are the two best teams in baseball? Probably not. But fans have to dream, right?

With spring training underway, the regular season is just over a month away and will arrive before we know it. With that in mind, it is time to make predictions about which American League (AL) teams will do well once games start to matter, and which teams will dwell in the cellars of their divisions.

AL East: Boston Red Sox

It seems like the Red Sox have turned away from the strategy of stacking the lineup with bats in order to outscore other teams that defined the AL East for the last few years. The Red Sox are now trying to get as many Cy Young winners as possible into their rotation, as they are now at three with the offseason addition of Chris Sale.

With so many great arms in addition to All-Star closer Craig Kimbrel, it will fall on the offense to score runs. Most of that burden will fall on the shoulders of Mookie Betts, who would probably be the perennial American League Most Valuable Player were it not for Mike Trout. If the offense can put up numbers, the Red Sox should be nearly impossible to beat.

No other team in the AL East has the type of manpower to go up against the top-loaded Boston team. The Toronto Blue Jays lost star Edwin Encarnación to the Indians. The New York Yankees, Baltimore Orioles and Tampa Bay Rays all have huge holes to fill before they become contenders.

AL Central: Cleveland Indians

The Indians kept all the key parts from their magical playoff run last year and will add tools to give them a chance to break baseball's longest championship drought. The addition of Edwin Encarnación and the assumed return of Michael Brantley should make the offense a pitcher's nightmare from top to bottom.

Add star pitchers Danny Salazar and Carlos Carrasco, who both did not pitch in the playoffs

due to injuries, and this team will be the favorite to repeat as AL champions in October.

Both the Minnesota Twins and the Chicago White Sox are teams looking toward the future rather than right now, and the Kansas City Royals do not seem to have the pitching to legitimately contend this year.

That leaves the Detroit Tigers, who have the bats to keep up with anyone. With the re-emergence of Justin Verlander last year in addition to the surprise performance of Michael Fulmer, the Tigers will be a team to watch. They could easily secure a wild card spot, and any team would be afraid of them if their bats get hot at the right time.

AL West: Texas Rangers

The AL West has turned into what the AL East used to be: A league full of stacked lineups and an immense void of pitchers to get them out. This league will be the closest in the American League, and it will come down to which team's pitchers perform the best.

If Yu Darvish can remain healthy, he will be one of the best pitchers in baseball and will complement Cole Hamels nicely for the Rangers. The Rangers are also a good mix of experience and young stars, so I believe their pitching will do just well enough to win them the AL West crown again.

The Houston Astros are a very similar team to the Rangers offensively, especially after this offseason with the additions of Josh Reddick, Carlos Beltrán and Brian McCann. If Dallas Keuchel can improve on an abysmal 2016 campaign and the Astros can find pitchers who can help on the other days, it could easily be the Astros, not the Rangers, who are crowned AL West Champions at the end of the year.

The Angels and the Seattle Mariners are also two teams with offenses that should be explosive for most of the year, but pitching will be big question marks for both. That being said, Félix Hernández is a great number one pitcher for any team, so the Mariners have a leg up on the Angels.

The Oakland Athletics do not have much to play for this year, as they are almost certain to be bottom dwellers, though if their young and very talented pitching rotation lives up to the hype, they could eventually have the best rotation in the AL West.

By COURTNEY COLWELL
For The News-Letter

This past weekend at the Track & Field Conference Championships, the Hopkins men clinched their fifth straight Centennial Conference crown. With six individual champions and an 81.5-point margin of victory over runner-up, Haverford College, the Jays dominated the competition at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Athlete of the Week title could go to a number of different team members: Senior Andrew Barnett

became the first pole-vaulter in league history to win the event for four consecutive years; Freshman Matthew Su took the crown in the long jump and was the only freshman to win an individual title at this year's Championships; Sophomore Alex Mollick took the individual title in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.86.

Among all these impressive performances, one athlete appeared to be the king of the individual title. With a meet record-breaking performance in the heptathlon, paired with a victory in the 60-meter hurdles, sophomore Grant Mosser has been chosen as this week's Athlete of the Week.

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Grant Mosser

Year: Sophomore

Sport: Indoor Track & Field

Major: Undeclared

Hometown: Lakeville, Minn.

High School: Lakeville South

A three-season, two-sport athlete, Mosser has been a stellar contributor to both the Hopkins football team and the men's indoor track team. Few can manage the balancing act of being a student athlete here at Hopkins, but Mosser is somehow able to handle this balancing act with ease.

A steady performer for the Blue Jays throughout the winter season, Mosser was at his best this past weekend, breaking personal records in both the 60-meter dash and the high jump. Most importantly, in winning both the heptathlon and 60-meter hurdles, Mosser was the only individual double-winner at the end of the competition.

Following his performance, Mosser was kind enough to visit Colwell's Court to discuss the Centennial Conference Championship and his personal goals going into the spring season.

The News-Letter: Coming off a long football season, how hard is it to transition into the indoor track?

Grant Mosser: The transition to track is a bit difficult, mostly because being in track shape and football shape are completely different. The workouts at the beginning definitely take more out of me than they do later in

the season.

N-L: What did the team do in preparation for the Conference Championships this week?

GM: To prepare for conferences, we tried to pull together as a team and simply get hyped for it. It was a week of easy practices, making sure we were in top shape and firing each other up for the meet.

N-L: After the first day of competition the team was in second place, seven points behind Haverford. What expectations did the team have going into Sunday, and how confident was the team that you could pull ahead into first place?

GM: As a team, we were not worried at all about being behind by seven points. We knew that we were going to win because we had an incredibly strong team that would do exceedingly well on the second day. I do not even think the fact that we were behind was discussed because all of us knew we would pull ahead the next day.

N-L: What is your favorite and least favorite event to compete in within the heptathlon and why?

GM: My favorite event in the heptathlon would have to be the 60-meter hurdles because they are the first event of day two, and it really is a good indicator of where everyone is at, how they are feeling and how the rest of the competition will go. My least favorite event would have to be the 1K. It is a

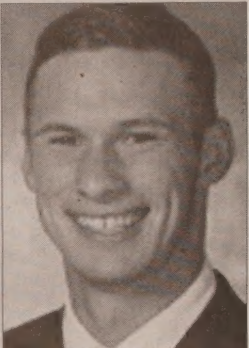
grueling way to end the heptathlon, and it takes a lot of guts to run it well.

N-L: How did it feel to beat your former teammate Devin Conley's meet record in the heptathlon, and what does the individual title mean to you?

GM: To beat Devin's record was incredibly special. I had not even known how close I was until after the 1K finished, and my coach told me. Devin was my mentor, and I looked up to him. To be able to have overtaken him is, in a sense, my way of showing him what a good job he did in teaching me how to compete as a multi.

N-L: What meets do you have coming up next and do you have any personal goals moving forward into the spring season?

GM: My next meet will not be until outdoor starts, but as for goals, I would like to be able to make it to Nationals this year in either 400-meter hurdles or, if everything goes well, the decathlon.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Sophomore Grant Mosser.

Which teams will shake up the NBA this season?

NBA, FROM B12

trade deadline acquisitions, forwards Serge Ibaka and P.J. Tucker, they seem to be in position to make a strong late-season push. Much like the Washington Wizards, the Toronto Raptors will go as far as their backcourt duo takes them.

DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry have both lived up to expectations, but Lowry's recent wrist injury will keep him off the court for at least a month. In the meantime, Serge Ibaka and fellow big man Jonas Valanciūnas must step up to support DeRozan in his leading role.

Assuming that Ibaka successfully adjusts to his new team and that Lowry comes back at full strength, the Raptors

will be a force to be reckoned with come playoff time.

The team already has valuable playoff experience, having taken Cleveland to its sixth game in the Conference Finals a year ago.

They have all the pieces in place to make a run. Now, it is the basic matter of putting everything together when it matters most.

In the West, it's simple. There is only one team that can beat the Warriors, and it's the San Antonio Spurs. The Houston Rockets or the Memphis Grizzlies could steal a couple of games from the Warriors, but the Spurs are the only team capable of out-dueling Golden State over the course of a seven game series.

Similar to last year, the

utter dominance of Golden State atop the Conference has detracted from San Antonio's superb regular season play.

Last year, San Antonio was stopped in the conference semifinals thanks to Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and the Oklahoma City Thunder.

However, following Durant's departure from Oklahoma City, the Thunder has struggled to play at an elite level after losing the irreplaceable face of their franchise.

While Durant's addition to Golden State makes knocking off the Warriors a very difficult task, the Spurs' path to get to the Conference Finals has become more manageable without Oklahoma City in their way.

There are several reasons to believe in San Antonio. First and foremost, this franchise, led by legendary coach Gregg Popovich, is always a legitimate title contender.

The Spurs have won five championships under Popovich and have not missed the playoffs since

the 1996-1997 season. In addition, the roster is among the best that San Antonio has had in recent years.

To begin with, Kawhi Leonard is a superstar. Behind him, LaMarcus Aldridge, Pau Gasol, Tony Parker and the rest of this uber-talented roster have consistently done their part in putting the team in position to win on a nightly basis.

The Spurs have only played the Warriors one time this season, on opening night in Oakland.

The result: a 129-100 annihilation in a game absolutely dominated by the Spurs.

While it may have been October, such a convincing victory says a lot about this San Antonio team. Whenever they see Golden State again, especially in the playoffs, they will be ready to play.

The four teams that I discussed may not turn any heads; After all, the Celtics, Wizards and Raptors are second, third and fourth in the East. Meanwhile, the Spurs are second in the West.

This comes down to the fact that there are simply not a lot of great teams in the League right now. There is so much talent concentrated on these six teams that it makes it extremely difficult for other teams to contend.

The upside, though, is that these highly anticipated matchups have a great chance of actually taking place on the game's biggest stage.



BASKETSTREAMING/CC BY 2.0
The NBA seems destined for another Cavaliers-Golden State matchup in 2017.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Graduate student goalie Gerald Logan was named the Big Ten Specialist of the Week following a 16-save performance in the Jays' 13-5 win over defending champion North Carolina.

CALENDAR

Friday:
Baseball vs. Keystone; 2:30 p.m.
M. lax @ Princeton; 3 p.m.
W. tennis @ Pomona-Pitzer

Saturday:
W. fencing @ NIWEA Champ.
Track @ Ursinus Last Chance

What could upset a Cavs-Warriors rematch



Daniel Landy
DanLand

Since the buzzer sounded at the end of Game 7 of the NBA Finals last June, fans immediately set their sights on a third finals matchup between the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Golden State Warriors in 2017. In July, the Warriors further solidified their status as the best in the West by adding one of the three best players in the world, Kevin Durant. Durant has gelled well with his new teammates and has the Warriors playing the best basketball in the Association.

In Cleveland, the Cavaliers have made a handful of shrewd midseason acquisitions to add depth to their roster.

In the Southeast... I give one team a fighting chance to make some noise in the playoffs, the Washington Wizards.

Cleveland traded for sharpshooter Kyle Korver in January and signed versatile big man Derrick Williams in early February. Most recently, they signed veterans point guard Deron Williams and center Andrew Bogut after they were bought out by the Dallas Mavericks and the Philadelphia 76ers, respectively.

Stockpiling assets and assuming their cores are healthy and intact come playoff time, both the Cavaliers and the Warriors should be heavy favorites in their respective conferences.

However, no matter how well these teams play, you cannot count out the other 28 teams. Let's have a look at the teams with the best shot at upsetting the Cavaliers or Warriors in the playoffs.

We begin in the East, specifically the Cavaliers' Central Division. Let me save you some time and say that nobody here is beating Cleveland. Indiana, Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee are all good teams, but they are hovering in or around the cloud of mediocrity that encompasses about half of the Eastern Conference. Simply put, none of these teams have any shot at beating the Cavaliers in a seven-game series.

The scenario in the Southeast fares a bit better in my analysis; I give one team a fighting chance to make some noise in the playoffs, the Washington Wizards. The Wizards are the only team in the division that have a realistic chance of

playing in the finals this June. The primary reason to believe in this Washington team is the emergence of its backcourt; The duo of John Wall and Bradley Beal is one of the best 1-2 combinations in the League.

The additions of Bojan Bogdanović and Brandon Jennings to the team adds some much needed depth to the roster. While these transactions will not shift the balance of power in the Conference, they do give Washington two more guys that can score, which may be exactly what it needs to take its play to the next level.

The Wizards are lacking in playoff experience, though, which is always an issue when a team is going up against LeBron James, who has reached six consecutive finals. They will need to use their youth to their advantage and carefully follow the guidance of their accomplished coach, Scott Brooks, who led Oklahoma City to the finals in 2012.

Meanwhile, the Atlantic has two teams that could be

potentially give Cleveland a hard time. The Boston Celtics and Toronto Raptors are capable of

making a deep run in the playoffs this year.

The Celtics had a mediocre year during the 2013-2014 season, but they have demonstrated steady improvement each year along the way. Coach Brad Stevens, in his fourth year with the team, has helped the Celtics return to the NBA's upper tier. Along with Stevens' coaching, the Celtics' current success can be greatly attributed to the emergence of Isaiah Thomas as a star point guard. He has flourished in Boston and led the Celtics to their current position as the number two team in the Conference standings.

Nevertheless, the Celtics do have several drawbacks. While the team's core is one of the strongest in the Conference, the team was unable to add an additional playmaker at the trade deadline. Instead, the Celtics remain an inferior team in comparison to the Cavaliers and missed out on an opportunity to make their team one able to be competitive far into the postseason.

The team's other issue is Avery Bradley's health, as the shooting guard has barely played during this calendar year. Without Bradley's offensive and defensive presence, the Celtics are no match for Cleveland. His health will be an issue to keep an eye on moving forward.

The Raptors sit just behind Boston in the standings, but following their

SEE NBA, B11

M. and W. Track capture Centennial crown



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

The men's and women's track teams were dominant once again at the Centennial Conference Championships, as the men took home the title for the fifth consecutive year, while the women won for the seventh consecutive season. Both teams got it done in different styles this weekend, as the women got out to a huge first day lead before hanging on for the win in day two. The men rallied from seven points down after the first day of competition to win by an 81.5 point margin, the largest since 2005.

B10

INSIDE

MLB: American League preview

Gregory Melick previews each American League division, offering his picks for who he thinks will emerge victorious at the end of the year.

PAGE B11

NBA trade deadline recap

James Aiosa recaps a riveting NBA trade deadline which saw plenty of stars and pivotal role players change teams. Who is primed to make a run at the title? PAGE B10

Colwell's Court: Grant Mosser

This week, *The News-Letter* highlights sophomore Grant Mosser, whose victory in the 60-meter hurdles helped the Jays capture the Centennial Championship.

PAGE B11

INSIDE

M. Lax beats defending champs on the road

By ANDREW JOHNSON
Sports Editor

This past weekend, the Jays travelled to Chapel Hill to take on the defending NCAA champions, the University of North Carolina Tar Heels, in an early season matchup between two top-five teams. The Jays came into the contest fresh off a thrilling overtime victory against their Charles Street rivals, the Loyola Greyhounds, looking to move to 4-0 on the season.

In what has become a theme for the early part of this season, the Blue Jays were led by a balanced scoring attack and a stifling defensive effort. Eight different Jays scored on the day, and a total of 11 players totaled contributions on the stat sheet. Hopkins got out of the gate strong, scoring the first two goals of the contest in the opening five minutes. Both strikes came from short range off the stick of senior attack Wilkins Dismuke, who has been an offensive force this season.

Hopkins would answer each successive Tar Heel goal with a pair of their own to eventually

stretch their lead to 8-3 entering the fourth quarter. A goal from North Carolina's midfielder Stephen Kelly early on in the final period would cut the deficit to four, but this time the Jays would answer the Tar Heels with a 5-0 run that officially put the game out of reach. The Jays' scoring streak was highlighted by goals from junior midfielders Patrick Fraser and Joel Tinney and a pair of goals from senior midfielder John Crawley.

The Jays defense was equally as dominant, as seniors Nick Fields and Trevor Koelsch and freshman Jack Rapine paced a unit that allowed only three goals on 24 shots from the Tar Heels top attack and midfield lines. Graduate student and goalkeeper Gerald Logan stopped 16 shots that day, a season high for the University of Michigan transfer.

Logan and his defense held the Tar Heels scoreless for a total of 24 minutes between the first and third quarters, a truly impressive feat which serves as a testament to the tenacity of the Hop-

kins defense.

The Jays ended the competition with 13 goals and 39 shots compared to the Tar Heels' five goals on 39 shots. It was a dominant victory that moved the Blue Jays to 4-0 on the season and up to third in the newest NCAA national rankings.

Dismuke's two goals set the Jays' offensive tone early on. He credited their offensive success to a balanced attack.

"I think our balanced scoring attack has a lot to do with the type of offense that we run. It gets everyone on the field involved in nearly every play, which allows for a lot of different players to be in good spots for scoring opportunities,"

Dismuke said. "Another reason our scoring attack is so balanced is because of the fact that we have so many guys contributing on game day. We have quite a bit of depth this year, which is really helping everyone stay fresh and ready for when they step on the field."

When asked to comment on the Jays' attacks on the net at will, Dismuke attributed it to the team's offensive strategy.

"As for our ability to attack the goal, I think that comes down to a mix of athleticism and the mindset to get to the goal on every dodge," Dismuke said.

The third-ranked Jays hit the field next on March 3, when they travel to New Jersey to take on the Princeton Tigers.

W. Lax see winning streak halted by Penn

By GAURAV VERMA
Sports Editor

After three straight wins to open the season, the 18th-ranked Hopkins women's lacrosse team suffered a setback against the 10th-ranked University of Pennsylvania Quakers, falling 10-7 in the home opener.

The Blue Jays opened the 2017 with a tough schedule, playing their first three games on the road against some tough opponents. The Jays faced a well-rested UPenn team.

"Penn is a great team who only had one game under their belt and a lot of days rest since their

Delaware game," senior midfielder Haley Schweizer said. "We had played four games in 10 days. I think our bodies started to feel it, but it is no excuse. We got drawn out and had some careless turnovers that led to some crucial Penn possessions."

The Jays were the first on the scoreboard, thanks to Schweizer, who capitalized on a shot just four minutes into the game. For the next 11 minutes, however, the momentum belonged to the Quakers. UPenn midfielder Alex Condon scored four consecutive goals to give Penn a 4-1 lead at the 15:25 mark in the first half.

SEE W. LAX, B10



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Senior Nick Fields and the Hopkins defense allowed only three goals.